

TURSDAY APRIL 6 1996  
talks by Andrew Pierce

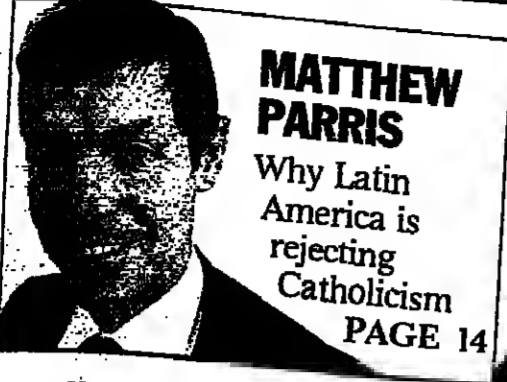
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# THE TIMES

30p

No. 65,548

MONDAY APRIL 8 1996



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SECTION 2

Hereditary peers 'will lose vote'

## Blair to inflict instant curbs on the Lords

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is planning to abolish hereditary peers' voting rights as soon as it comes to power in the first step towards an elected House of Lords.

Tony Blair has made clear his disdain of the 770 hereditary peers whom he described as "Tory voting fodder" — and party strategists are considering bringing in a short Bill to strip them of their powers within the first six months of a Labour government.

More radical reform of the Lords might have to wait until a second or third Labour Parliament, so the curbs is partly intended to reassure activists and prevent party splits in the early stages of a Blair administration.

There are hundreds of Tory hereditary peers, compared with 12 Labour and 24 Liberal Democrats, giving the Conservatives a massive built-in majority in the Lords. Mr Blair, who recently declared that some were there merely because they were the descendants of royal mistresses, intends to reverse that, although he has made plain that those who provide good service to Parliament could become life peers and continue voting. The law lords would also remain.

Well-known figures who would be disenfranchised by such a law include the Lords leader, Viscount Cranborne, Lord Strathclyde, the Tory chief whip, along with the Labour peers Lord Ponsonby and Lord Melchett. The Labour leadership has yet to decide whether they should be given the right — at present

### Tories accused of smear tactics

A Tory attempt to discredit Tony Blair on the eve of his visit to Washington appeared to have foundered as American commentators pressed themselves unimpressed by a document prepared by Conservative Central Office highlighting his "un-American activities". Labour called the document "an outrageous smear."

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of getting the measures through both the Commons and the Lords.

Sources also point out that once hereditary peers lost the vote, they would not be able to block a Scottish Parliament, which could have a difficult passage through the Lords.

But some MPs argue in favour of delay, saying that peers could be threatened with more draconian measures if they failed to back other legislation on constitutional matters.

The shadow home office team is now preparing timetables for all the constitutional legislation that Mr Blair intends to introduce, including a Scottish parliament, Welsh assembly and regional chambers. Shadow ministers are said to be drawing up three separate timetables, allowing for a hung Parliament, a slim majority, or a large mandate.

Little work, however, is being done on plans to hold a referendum on electoral reform. Labour also hopes to placate the left by offering a pledge for legislation on the first stage for elected regional assemblies in a first Parliament. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, has already given an undertaking that each region will be able to vote in a referendum on whether it wants greater autonomy.

But leftwingers are worried that legislation will be deferred to a second Parliament and Mr Straw is being pressed to back early legislation to allow for the setting up of elected regional chambers after a referendum.



Lynne Symonds, a Norfolk teacher, being made a chief of the Mamprusi tribe of Ghana at the weekend. Mrs Symonds was honoured for her help in providing books and raising money for the tribal school. Page 9. Leading article, page 15

## Spelling skills three times worse among GCSE students

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SIGNIFICANT slide in teenagers' writing skills since 1980 has been revealed by a comparison of English O-level scripts with GCSE examination papers.

Researchers concluded that candidates who failed O level would now be receiving a grade C or better at GCSE English, said to be the equivalent of an O-level pass.

The study, by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, contains a damning indictment of the national curriculum for a sharp decline in spelling. English GCSE students in 1994 were up to three times worse at spelling than O-level pupils in 1980 and had a narrower range of vocabulary. There was a six-fold increase in the use of non-standard English, for example saying "real" instead of "really", or using "that" instead of "who" or "which".

Overall, the number of error-free sentences fell from 73 per cent in the 1980 English O level to 47 per cent in the 1994 GCSE English examination.

The study concluded: "In some respects candidates awarded D and E grades in 1990 seemed not unlike many of those reaching C and above in more recent years."

Examination scripts were analysed from 30 boys and 30 girls awarded each grade from A to E at O level English in 1980 and from A to G at GCSE English in 1993 and 1994. O-level candidates used more adventurous vocabulary and sentence structures than pupils receiving the same grades 14 years later. While the punctuation of more able students was comparable over time, weaker O-level students were much better than weaker GCSE pupils.

Spelling differences were noticeable. For example, al-

right (instead of all right) was used at D grade in O level but at A grade in GCSE.

There was also a marked deterioration in spelling between 1993 and 1994. An average of 50 spelling errors per script in 1980 was followed by 93 per script in 1993 and 149 the next year. This was pinned down to the scrapping after 1993 of an option for the whole GCSE to be assessed on coursework. The vast majority of schools opted for the full coursework alternative in 1993 and examined schools that year included a high proportion of selective and independent schools. In 1994, all schools were again forced to put pupils through the traditional test.

O-level candidates were also more likely to make proper use of full stops and commas. Semi-colons were used appropriately eight times in the samples from 1980 and incorrectly once. However, just three candidates in both 1993 and 1994 used the semi-colon correctly, with one incorrect attempt in 1994. The colon was used three times in 1980, once outstandingly, but was not even tried by anybody in 1993.



Blunkett returns, page 4

## Ulster is still at war, says former IRA terrorist

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY KELLY, the convicted IRA bomber and leading Republican strategist, declared yesterday in a rare public speech that Northern Ireland was in a "war situation".

And, as thousands of Republicans gathered for Easter Rising Commemoration parades on both sides of the border, John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, was accused of saving into London and failing to provide the right leadership. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, told a Londonderry rally: "Mr Bruton has not so far risen to the challenge presented by British duplicity and bad faith."

Mr Kelly, 41, who is widely respected throughout the IRA for his role as a leading terrorist in the 1970s and 1980s, was cheered by hundreds of supporters when he told a Sinn Fein and IRA rally in Drumbo, County Donegal that Republicans were still committed to removing Britain from Ireland.

"If the British Government had not squandered the year and a half of the IRA cessation for selfish party political reasons, we might have been well on the way to the resolution of the age-old conflict between Britain and Ireland," he said.

Mr Kelly, who was convicted for his part in the first

London bomb attacks by the Provisional IRA in 1973, said that the movement's goals had not changed. "We want British withdrawal. Partition must end. It has not worked."

In a sign that the IRA is unlikely to restore its ceasefire in the short-term, Mr Kelly insisted that Britain must give "clear and unambiguous public assurances" that it would convene unconditional all-party talks.

JA Labour government would abolish powers to ban terrorist suspects from the British mainland under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary said.

## Korea alert as troops move in

American troops in South Korea were put on high alert at the weekend, as a third incursion of North Korean soldiers into the demilitarised zone yesterday raised tensions in the divided peninsula. About 300 heavily armed soldiers entered the joint security area at the Panmunjom border crossing in 12 lorries. They began to leave more than two hours later. Page 7

## PO takes off

The Post Office could become Britain's biggest travel agent if a trial in London is successful. Thousands of branches could sell cut-price air tickets and have computer systems to enable customers to fix up their travel documents. Page 36  
Leading article, page 15

## Mexicans die in US border crash

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

CRAMMED into a smuggler's stolen van, seven suspected illegal immigrants with hopes of a new life in America were killed when their vehicle overturned in a ditch while fleeing the US Border Patrol.

The crash, less than a week after a videotape of police beating two immigrants was shown around the world, has brought Mexican anger over America's treatment of its citizens to a crescendo even though officials insist the vehicle was not being chased.

Besides the dead, the incident on a remote mountain road, 60 miles north of California's Mexican border, left 18 injured including three men with severe spinal injuries,

one believed to be paralysed from the neck down.

As news of Saturday's tragedy reached Los Angeles, a mood of sorrow at a rally for the victims of last week's televised beating turned to one of outrage. A 6,000-strong crowd chanted slogans, waved placards and brought parts of the city to a standstill.

"Christ's parents were immigrants," read one banner. Latino politicians attacked Pete Wilson, the state Governor re-elected in 1994 on an anti-immigration platform.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry issued an official complaint, its second in six days, and demanded an investigation by American authorities.

## RAF gives the Brylcreem boys a bit more polish

By ADRIAN LEE

THE RAF is in danger of becoming the riff-raff, senior service officers fear. Once upon a time, young RAF officers were so socially adroit and dashing that they were known as the Brylcreem boys. Now they speak in monosyllables and are more at home in the disco than the ballroom.

To rectify matters, the latest 100 recruits at Cranwell are to be schooled in the finer points of life by order of Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff.

Sir Michael called for oral communication classes at the service's officer training college when he heard that

trainees responded with grunts of "yeah" and "OK" to polite inquiries from visiting superiors about their course. Worse was to follow when it emerged that the recruits, who are regarded as among the cream of the armed forces, did not know a foxtrot from a waltz.

An RAF source said yesterday: "This all stemmed from a visit to the mess by two very senior officers. When they asked the cadets how things were going, they got monosyllabic answers. It was all very embarrassing."

"On another occasion the cadets were at a civic function, where the mayor and mayoress were present.

When it came to formal dancing the officers just sat and looked at one another. The only dancing they know is in a disco. It is not a reflection on the qualities of the lads and lasses — these are very intelligent people — it is more a reflection on the times we live in. But it got back to Sir Michael, who wanted to know what the hell was going on and ordered the commandant at Cranwell to do something about it.

"An RAF officer must be able to carry him or herself at all times and not be embarrassed socially."

The ballroom dancing sessions are not compulsory, but cadets on the eight-week courses are "strongly advised" to participate. They are taught

foxtrot, waltz, quickstep, Latin and even rock-and-roll moves.

Recruits, who are in their early twenties and come from both public and comprehensive schools, also attend "dining in" evenings where they are encouraged to converse with their senior officers. Other lessons cover "common etiquette and social responsibility", including such topics as dress codes and terms of address; for example how to greet an archbishop.

In a separate development Sir Michael, himself a product of Cranwell, has ordered the creation of a confidential drugs hotline at the headquarters of the RAF Police, in Bath, for the use of all ranks.

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# THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

**TUESDAY**  
**CONCERT OFFER**  
 Buy one ticket for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Albert Hall and get one free  
**PLUS:**  
 Libby Purves, and Dr Thomas Stuttard's Medical Briefing

**WEDNESDAY**  
**FASHION**  
 Buttoned up: the best dresses for summer  
**PLUS:**  
 Win a mobile office in Interface

**THURSDAY**  
**FILM OF THE WEEK**  
 Mira Sorvino in Woody Allen's *Mighty Aphrodite*  
**PLUS:**  
 Health, Books and Travel News

**FRIDAY**  
**POP**  
 Carlin Moran on modern music and musicians  
**PLUS:**  
 The Valerie Grove interview

**SATURDAY**  
**SUMMER OF '96**  
 40 pages of men's fashion, in the Magazine  
**PLUS:**  
 Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

# Americans dismiss 'smear memo'

By Philip Webster and Ian Brodie in Washington

The Labour Party's Un-American Activities

## L. Blair's un-American Activities

L.1 Tony Blair in the early 1980s was opposed to nuclear weapons. During the Beaconsfield by-election of 1982 he wrote, "I support the Labour Party's present leadership" including such policies as, "nuclear disarmament, unilaterally if necessary". His election leaflets said "Nuclear weapons are not a deterrent they are an encouragement to attack" (quoted in *The Modernist*, by Jon Sopel, p.59 2nd Edition).

Labour described the Tory dossier as outrageous

A TORY attempt to discredit Tony Blair on the eve of his visit to Washington this week appeared to have foundered last night as American commentators professed themselves unimpressed by a document highlighting his "un-American activities". A memorandum drawn up by the research department at Conservative Central Office and sent to Republican sympathising journalists in the United States was cited by Labour as evidence of a dirty tricks campaign against Mr Blair. But Conservative chiefs defended their action, accusing Labour of a "hysterical response" and said that all the information provided in the document was properly sourced and beyond dispute.

Tory sources said the document was compiled by the research department, under Daniel Finkelstein, its director, after American commentators approached the department for information about "this man Tony Blair". However, at least one of the recipients, a senior journalist, was given it without asking for it. The document, which Labour believes was designed to sabotage Mr Blair's three days of talks with President Clinton, other politicians and businessmen, highlights Mr Blair's

past opposition to nuclear weapons and states that in the 1980s both he and his wife Cherie were "anti-nuclear and anti-American". It claims that Mr Blair opposed the actions taken by America in 1986 in response to Libyan terrorist activities, and had backed the removal of American nuclear missiles from Greenham Common. Quoting from a Commons motion it added that he had criticised America's "evil campaign" against Nicaragua and "President Reagan's state-sponsored terrorism" in Central America. The document goes on to detail the Shadow Cabinet's alleged "un-American activities". It says that four of them were members of a group called the

Supper Club which had opposed Britain's entry into the war against Iraq. "Mr Blair has seen fit to promote these MPs irrespective of their views. This is largely because he sympathises with them," it asserts.

Tory sources said there was nothing secretive about the document which would in any case have been distributed to Westminster journalists this week as Mr Blair prepares to leave on his visit.

However, the heading on the paper, "Blair's Un-American Activities", inevitably evoked memories of the McCarthyite era. Labour officials attacked the "disgraceful smear" against Mr Blair, alleging that it would further

worsen the administration's relations with John Major. Clinton supporters remain irritated that senior Tories were sent to America to help in George Bush's failed re-election campaign four years ago.

Mr Blair will be attempting to convince Americans that Labour has buried its far left ideals and observers suggested yesterday that the document would have little impact on his visit.

John O'Sullivan, British-born editor of *National Review*, a right-wing magazine, described the allegations as "true but trivial". He was offered the 1½ pages by a Tory source but had paid scant attention to them.

"Nobody really believes Tony Blair is the man he was in the 1980s," he said.

In Mr O'Sullivan's view, the headline on the document about "un-American activities" was "sensationalistic". He said: "I would be equally cynical about the Tory attempts to spoil the Blair visit and Labour's indignation about it."

The Tory stunt had not caused any reaction in America by yesterday. There was only a news agency report from London on the political row caused by the document. No American newspapers or television news programmes had picked up on its allegations. They might, though, as the week wears on.

## I'll vote Labour at General Election, says Archdeacon

# Austin counters Tory attacks on Blair's beliefs

By Philip Webster Political Editor

A SENIOR churchman threw his support behind Tony Blair yesterday after the Labour leader enraged Conservatives by linking politics and religion and saying that the Bible had taught him that he could never be a Tory.

The Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, said he would be voting Labour at the General Election and launched a blistering attack on the Government's handling of the Scott report and BSE. He suggested that "morality comes second" for Tory MPs.

The Labour leader, who set out his religious views in a newspaper article, was accused by one Conservative MP of "wearing God on his sleeve". Coming on the day that official research indicated that Mr Blair had succeeded in making the Labour Party more middle class than the Conservative Party, his remarks were more than senior Tory MPs could stomach. They also prompted senior Labour figures to deny that he was arguing that "Christians should only vote Labour".

Brian Mawhinney, Conser-



Austin: hit at handling of Scott report and BSE

ervative party chairman, said: "In terms of my Christian faith I start with Jesus and the Great Commandment, which is to love the God of the good with all your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength, and to love others as yourself. That commandment transcends party politics and I would be very cautious about any politician who sought to claim that his or her political party was the exclusive vehicle for Christian action."

Mr Blair, writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, said his view of Christian values led him to oppose the narrow view of self-interest that Conservatism, particularly its modern, more right-wing form, represented. He insisted he was not pretending to be any better or less selfish than anyone else, or saying that Christians could only vote Labour.

"The key point is that Christianity is more than a one-to-one relationship between the individual and God, impor-

tant as that is. The relationship also has to be with the outside world," he wrote.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, was reported to be aware of Mr Blair's remarks but declined to comment. But the archdeacon sprang to Mr Blair's defence. Mr Austin said: "I welcome Tony Blair's comments. He wasn't saying that you couldn't be a Tory and a Christian. He was arguing that Christianity had swayed him against the extreme right wing and Marxism."

"I think that the Tory MPs who are having a go at Blair today may be feeling guilty about the way they have handled the Scott Report and the BSE crisis. They have acted in a way that has made me wonder if I can trust them. With them, it seems morality comes second. I tend to vote against parties in elections and the Conservatives have swayed me against them."

Mr Blair's words were bound to upset Tories already concerned by statistics apparently confirming Labour's claim to the middle class mantle. Labour's figures showed the party could now claim more young professionals and managers among its members than the Tories; 57 per cent of Labour members are in households earning £20,000 or more, and 30 per cent £30,000 or above. About 45 per cent of Tory members earn £20,000 or more and 25 per cent £30,000 or more.

Donald Dewar, Labour's chief whip, defended Mr Blair's commitment "which we all know and admire and he goes out of his way from the beginning to say that he is not arguing that Christians should only vote Labour".

He told GMTV's Sunday Programme: "The Labour



Blair: Christianity was more than a relationship with God, it also had to be with the outside world

Party is not trying to take over the Christian church, it would be ludicrous to say the least, but Tony has a strong religious position and moral views that have shaped his politics. But he does go on to make some points about self-interest and community which seem to me to be perfectly legitimate."

The Rev Andrew MacLellan, Convener of the Church of Scotland, said he welcomed the fact politicians recognised politics was more than just economics, tax cuts and the pound in your pocket. On the same programme he said: "Politics is about learning to be a society and a community together. Learning about being a society together is a secular way of speaking about loving your neighbour."

Ann Widdecombe, a Home Office minister, said: "[Mr Blair] portrays Pontius Pilate as a man torn between right

and expediency. The Labour Party has consistently chosen expediency and I don't think Tony Blair is the best person to lecture us on religious morals."

David Wilshire, Tory MP for Spelthorne, who is Convener of the Methodist Fellowship at the Commons, said no politician "should try to argue Christianity as justification for their ideology". He was offended by Mr Blair's remarks, which were "deeply hurtful" to many Christians.

Dame Jill Knight, a member of the Tory 1922 committee executive, said: "It has always seemed to me that when politicians feel they must claim Christian principles as a reason why people should vote for them, which is precisely what Mr Blair is doing, they have abandoned moral thought themselves."

Leading article, page 15

# Easter message of hope is not just for the church-goers says Carey

By Michael Horsnell

THE message of eternal hope inspired by the Resurrection was for all people and not just the committed church-goer, the Archbishop of Canterbury said yesterday in his Easter address.

It was the bedrock on which Christianity rested, Dr George Carey said at Canterbury Cathedral. Referring to a survey which showed that half the people of Britain believed in the Resurrection while only 34 per cent did not, he went on: "Those who thought our society was overrun by secularism and scepticism will be in for a surprise."

"It shows the deep deposits of belief beneath the surface. And there can be no doubt of the goodness and generosity of so many people, whether church-goers or not. We must avoid the trap of becoming fixated on evil."

"There was a drift from explicit Christian values and hope, but Easter said that if we tried to live without God we would be powerless and constantly defeated by the chains of our sins, by the fickleness of our nature and

A congregation shaken by a sex scandal last year relaunched their services yesterday at a chapel in Sheffield's east end. Worshippers were drawn from remnants of the Nine O'Clock Service, broken up after women complained of being sexually assaulted by the leader, Chris Brain.

Yesterday's "quiet meditative service" was conducted by the Archdeacon of Sheffield, the Ven Stephen Lowe. A Diocesan spokesman said the rock-style service could be reintroduced. "The scandal was about Chris Brain and not about reaching out to a generation lost in the church."

the weakness of our will. Christianity at its best is never comfortable, but if we open our hearts to the Resurrection message, we too shall find ourselves surprised by joy," he said, referring to C.S. Lewis's book *Surprised by Joy*, in which the writer told how he suddenly became convinced of the reality of God.

The Archbishop told Sir David Frost in the ITV programme *The Easter Enigma* that there was a bodily resurrection: "It wasn't a ghost, it wasn't an apparition, it wasn't merely appearances but there was a bodily resurrection. I believe it was bodily, but something happened to that body which made it quite extraordinary, which is al-

most a pattern of the resurrection body that we will all one day enjoy."

Asked if this was saying that in the eternal sense there could be a happy ending, he said: "Oh yes, definitely, definitely. When we look at this world in which we live, the Easter faith is a wonderful radiant message of hope."

The Archbishop said that those who had suffered in the Dunblane atrocity last month would be fortified by the certainty that they would see their loved ones again.

His message of hope was extended to those who suffered as a result of atrocities such as those at Dunblane and Srebrenica. Dr Carey said: "God has created a world in which He has given

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Judge attacks Howard reforms

A former Master of the Rolls yesterday accused Michael Howard of turning his White Paper on tougher sentencing into an election manifesto and mixing party politics with penal reform.

Lord Donaldson of Lynton said: "The White Paper read in part more as an election manifesto than it did as a serious study of penal policy."

He also attacked the way penal policy had swung from one extreme to the other in recent years and suggested that attempts had been made to undermine public respect for the judiciary.

### Opera TB tests

More than 200 members of the opera house staff at Glyndebourne have been tested for tuberculosis after five cases of the disease among staff within three years. No further cases were found in the tests, ordered by East Sussex Health Authority, but contacts are still being traced. The Glyndebourne season will open as scheduled on May 17.

### Driving charge

The Princess of Wales's mother has been charged with refusing to provide a breath sample after being stopped by police. Frances Shand Kydd, 60, could also face a drink-driving charge after the incident in Ohan, Strathclyde, on Friday. She lives near by on the island of Seil. She moved in the area after leaving her first husband, the late Earl Spencer.

### Oriana sets sail

The *Oriana*, P&O's £200 million flagship liner, is due to return to the water today after spending two days in dry dock in Southampton being fitted with new propeller blades to stop her shaking at high speed. The cruise liner returned from her inaugural world cruise last week and is due to depart tonight for the Caribbean.

### First point

Poole Town has narrowly escaped going into the record books as the worst soccer team in Britain after drawing 0-0 with Bashley at the weekend. The Beazer Homes Southampton side halted a run of 39 consecutive defeats, equaling a record set 18 years ago by Stockport County, and gained its first point of the season.

### Royal baby due

The Queen's niece, Lady Sarah Chatto, above, the former Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, is expecting a baby in July. The daughter of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, and her husband, Daniel Chatto, announced their news to members of the Royal Family at Windsor.

The Queen's niece, Lady Sarah Chatto, above, the former Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, is expecting a baby in July. The daughter of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, and her husband, Daniel Chatto, announced their news to members of the Royal Family at Windsor.

### Star trek

The British explorer David Hempleman-Adams is to attempt the first televised walk to the magnetic North Pole. His 17-strong team will set out from Resolute Bay in northwest Canada next week, dragging 300kg (660lb) of TV and satellite transmission equipment on a specially-insulated sled.

### Rickshaws roll

Britain's first rickshaw service started yesterday in Oxford with university students pedalling passengers on half-hour tours of the city. Twenty-five two-seater 21-year rickshaws have been imported from India to use for the £8 trips around the main historic sites. A similar service is planned for Cambridge later this year.

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# Yugoslav refugee who fought Hitler and Tito is pulled from his car, beaten, kicked and robbed

## British Serbs pray for war veteran killed by mugger

BY PAUL WILKINSON

PRAYERS were said in Serbian Orthodox churches across Britain yesterday for the Second World War veteran Stevan Popovic, who survived battles against Hitler and Tito only to die at the hands of a mugger in the country where he believed he had found sanctuary.

Mr Popovic, 74, was a leading figure in the British Serb community. He had led a group of Chetnik guerrillas against the Nazis and against Tito's Communists in a bitter civil war. When Tito triumphed Mr Popovic fled to England, homeless and with

only £1 to his name. On Saturday the man who spent his later years helping refugees from the latest war in the former Yugoslavia died shortly after being beaten and robbed by a youth whom he had asked for directions in Chapelton, Leeds.

Yesterday his widow, Dragica, 65, said: "I still cannot believe it has happened. I keep asking myself why. Stevan loved the people here, he trusted people. We were so happy here and we had so many English friends."

Mr Popovic, known as Pop, was a retired bus driver who

lived in Oldham, Greater Manchester. He was in Leeds to collect a friend for a reunion of the Serbian Chetnik Association in Leicester, of which he was vice-president. Shortly after 8am he stopped to ask an Afro-Caribbean man in his late teens or early 20s the way to the hotel where his friend was waiting.

The youth abused him, pulled him from his Lada saloon, battered him to the ground and kicked him, breaking several of his ribs. He tore off Mr Popovic's jacket to steal his wallet, which contained £50, and pulled his watch and wedding ring from his hand. Despite his injuries, Mr Popovic tried to grab the steering wheel as the attacker drove off in the Lada. He clung on for a short distance but was thrown clear.

Mr Popovic had emergency surgery at St James's University Hospital in Leeds, but the stress of the incident induced a fatal heart attack. Detective Superintendent Andrew Brown, of West Yorkshire, said the incident was being treated as murder.

Mr Popovic had many relatives in the former Yugoslavia. His sister was killed last year in their home town of Knin, which is now part of Croatia. Mrs Popovic said: "It makes it difficult that, with all the trouble there, he should die like this. Had it been from natural causes, I might have accepted it, but to die just for asking someone the way... Society has changed so much. Everything has changed since we came here. I remember you could leave a purse full of money and somebody would return it. Things must be changed, we cannot live in terror like this."

"He was a harmless old man who was looking forward to his day out with his friends. He was so looking forward to spending a traditional Serbian Orthodox family Easter at our home next week."

Mr Popovic was a graduate of the university in Split. He



Stevan Popovic with his granddaughter, Catherine. He became a bus driver after arriving in Britain in 1948



Dragica Popovic with her son, Milan, yesterday and with her husband soon after coming to Britain



Stevan Popovic, a graduate of the university in Split. He met his wife in a refugee camp in Germany in 1948 and came to England. They married in 1953 and had two sons, Milan, 41, an optical designer in Leicester, and Aleks, 40, a general manager with British Airways at Heathrow. They have two grandchildren, Joseph, 10, and Catherine, 8.

met his wife in a refugee camp in Germany in 1948 and came to England. They married in 1953 and had two sons, Milan, 41, an optical designer in Leicester, and Aleks, 40, a general manager with British Airways at Heathrow. They have two grandchildren, Joseph, 10, and Catherine, 8.

Milan Popovic was comforting his mother at her home yesterday. He said: "My feelings are just of great shock. This is the last thing I would expect to happen to someone like my father. He was so diplomatic and not the sort to go looking for trouble. He knew the area quite well but was looking for the hotel to meet his friend and may have been distracted. It is shocking that anyone should attack a man of over 70 in this way."

"My father was a Chetnik hero. He fought against Hitler when the Nazis invaded in

1941. He was an officer in the Royal Yugoslav Army and disappeared into the hills to fight a guerrilla war against the Ustase Nationalist Party when the Germans took over and disbanded the army. He travelled all over the country and suffered many hardships and much pain.

"For a man like him to live through what he lived through and to be cut down like this is disgusting. He had no enemies, not even among the Communists whom he saw whenever he returned to Yugoslavia. He was a tireless peace campaigner and worked hard to bring understanding of the Serbian cause in Yugoslavia."

Ilija Preocanin, secretary of the Chetnik Association, said: "He was a very civilised man, even in battle, and a man of principle. He always ensured whenever possible the protec-

tion of civilians. He was very much respected and I knew him as a very intelligent, caring and meek fellow."

The congregation at the Serbian Orthodox church in Bradford, where Mr Popovic worshipped, were among those who prayed for him yesterday. The priest, Father Zarko Nedic, had been helped by Mr Popovic when he arrived in Britain 11 years ago. He said: "He had a British passport when he died, but he was a Serbian in his heart. He was a proud man who had fought the Communists and then fled across Italy and Germany to come to Britain. When he arrived, he had just a pound in his pocket, but he built up a good life and a good family. You could not wish to meet a nicer man."

"When I arrived here with my wife and baby son, he gave me very useful advice about

life here. He was a very close friend and a good parishioner. I can say only good things about him, he was so kind, big and open-hearted."

Detective Superintendent Brown said: "We need to catch the killer quickly. Although Mr Popovic had a history of illness, he would still be alive now if it was not for the attack upon him. He was probably too old for what he tried to do, but he has got to be admitted for his brave actions. He was an unfortunate hero. Sadly, he was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

The attacker is described as tall and stocky. His head was shaved at the sides and back in what is known as a "pineapple" cut. He was wearing a dark leather jacket and a green shirt. He could have been accompanied by another youth wearing a blue Yankees baseball cap.

West Yorkshire Police say the situation in Chapelton is not as bad as in parts of other British cities, but last year criminals felt bold enough to continue a gunfight over territory at the entrance of the emergency unit at the neighbouring St James's University Hospital, where one young man was shot.

Derek Fatchett, Labour MP for Leeds Central, said: "It is a dangerous precedent to set a pattern from one isolated incident. My view is that you cannot see the whole of Chapelton in these terms."

The Prince of Wales recently visited the Chapelton and Harchills Assisted Learning Computer School, set up by parents concerned by the poor academic standards of many Afro-Caribbean children. The privately funded project has been responsible for a significant improvement in their attainments.

## Streets haunted by fear of crime

BY PAUL WILKINSON

CHAPELTOWN, the district of Leeds where Stevan Popovic was killed, is an area of narrow, terraced Victorian streets to the north of the city centre. It suffers many of the problems associated with inner cities: racial tension, drugs and a high crime rate. Almost 80 per cent of its population is Afro-Caribbean.

Most of the prostitution in Leeds is run from its streets and it was there in the 1970s that Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, selected several of his victims. Michael Sams, the kidnapper of Stephanie Slater four years ago, also picked up his first victim, Julie Dart, from a street corner in Chapelton in 1991.

Tamrez Kahn, a taxi-firm operator, said yesterday that the district was notorious for violent crime. "It is part and parcel of everyday life around here. There are six or seven violent attacks every day and most go unreported. Pensioners call a cab to take them 40 yards to the Post Office to collect their pensions."

Rangodh-Thind, who runs a sub-post office, said: "There are muggings and beatings in Chapelton on a daily basis. Everyone is scared."

## Police fear twins were murdered

BY STEWART TENDLER

IDENTICAL twins whose bodies were pulled from a north London canal within yards of each other were yesterday at the centre of a murder investigation. One brother had been beaten to death and wrapped in a blanket. The other died from unknown causes.

As divers searched the Regent's Canal yesterday for clues to the deaths of Christopher and Anthony Langford, 38, police were waiting to confirm whether they were dealing with a family row or a double murder.

The investigation began on March 26 when the body of Christopher Langford was found in the canal. Last Wednesday the body of Anthony was dragged from the same canal. It had been in the water for some days.

The two brothers came originally from Bedford and lived in hostels in the Islington area. Both had minor convictions for public order and drinking offences.

## Royal Family to rescue as horses stampede

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Royal Family joined a five-hour alert with police and the Household Cavalry when 75 ponies stampeded from a late-night fire at the Guards Polo Club stables in Windsor Great Park.

The Duke and Duchess of York left their former matrimonial home at nearby Sunninghill Park to give first aid to a woman who suffered cuts when one of 30 terrified animals that ran through the town centre was fatally injured colliding with a car. They then helped to capture horses in Windsor Great Park.

The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales left Windsor Castle itself hit by fire in 1992 — to help to calm the horses late on Saturday night. A spokesman said they had gone to satisfy themselves the situation was under control.

One officer in Windsor, Sergeant Andrew Morrow, said: "I was on King's Road and it was like the Grand National. There were more

than 30 horses charging up the road in complete darkness."

The blaze had started on Saturday night in a hay barn at the polo club, where the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales are members. The head groom and his staff decided to release the ponies — some worth up to £20,000 — fearing they would be trapped by the smoke and flames.

The animals fled in darkness, to be hunted eventually by 100 police RSPCA inspectors, local Horse Watch members, AA patrols and one officer and five men from the Household Cavalry Regiment at Combermere Barracks.

Two police helicopters with thermal-imaging cameras were called out. Several police cars were damaged by fleeing horses and roads had to be sealed off to prevent accidents.

Many of the horses were found grazing safely in fields and gardens miles from the scene. Three people received hospital treatment for minor injuries. Among them was Jo Hughes, 18, who had been

helped by the Yorks while she awaited an ambulance. She was a passenger in a Ford Orion when two horses collided with the side of the car and a third tried to climb over the roof. She said: "It was horrific. They just ran straight at us. You could smell the horses in the car."

Prince Andrew bandaged Ms Hughes's bleeding hand in his Range Rover. Ms Hughes, from Crowthorne, Berkshire, and her boyfriend were taken to hospital but later released.

The RSPCA said the pony was fatally injured and had to be put down. It belonged to Rick Stowe, a member of the Australian polo team. None of the other animals suffered serious injuries.

The Polo club's chairman, Major General Bernard Gordon Lennox, praised his staff. "They had to get the horses out, they were so frightened. They tried to lead one or two to safety but suddenly they had to let them all go," he said.

The cause of the blaze was being investigated last night.

## Mother who delayed cure in clear

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN who risked death by turning down chemotherapy to let her unborn child live has been told she is clear of cancer.

Sonya Short, 29, a nurse from Blaydon, Tyne and Wear, decided against the treatment to cure a breast tumour 12 weeks into her pregnancy because she knew it would kill her baby. She had her right breast removed and delayed taking powerful anti-cancer drugs until after giving birth to Charlie, six months after the disease was detected.

The baby was born three weeks ago, weighing 7lb 13oz, and Mrs Short finally started a course of tamoxifen to combat the malignant cells. Mrs Short and her husband Kevin, 30, have now been told that their life-or-death gamble has succeeded.

The lump had been found during an ante-natal check-



Sonya Short, who has beaten cancer, with Charlie

Newcastle upon Tyne telephoned last week to tell her she was free of the disease.

Cuddling Charlie, Mrs Short said: "I'm ecstatic — I've been given the all-clear and I've got a lovely baby boy. I've been given my life back. I'm only just beginning to realise what it really means."

"Up until now we've lived week by week and not dared think too much about the future. One of my worries was that I might not be around to see Molly and Charlie start school. Now there's no reason why I shouldn't."

"I have no regrets. I don't think I could have lived with myself if I'd had an abortion so I could have the treatment."

Mrs Short will have to continue taking tamoxifen for five years to ensure the cancer does not return. "I'll never take my life for granted again," she said.

Mrs Short said: "I'm so proud of Sonya."

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# Blunkett returns to woo teachers with school repairs plan

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

DAVID BLUNKETT made a triumphant return to the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers yesterday. A year after he was barracked by militants, he promised a new deal between Labour and the banks to repair "crumbling" schools.

At last year's conference, in Blackpool, the Shadow Education Secretary had to take refuge after being pursued by angry hard-left teachers. Yesterday his speech won loud applause from delegates.

Mr Blunkett's reception contrasted with the tension when Gillian Shephard addressed the conference in Cardiff on Saturday. The speech of the Education and Employment Secretary was punctuated by muted heckling and laughter as she defended the Government's record.

In one of his most assured performances as education spokesman, Mr Blunkett reaf-

Parents should lose the right to withdraw their children from lessons about Aids and HIV, delegates argued. The conference narrowly rejected appeals from the executive to drop the motion, which calls for gay and lesbian groups to be established in every area and pledges support for teachers who "come out". Delegates want the union to hold an annual lesbian and gay teachers' conference with confidential enrolment.

Mr Blunkett said the Government's Private Finance Initiative because groups of schools or whole education authorities would be involved, rather than single institutions. Mr Blunkett said the banks considered lending to individual schools a "non-starter".

The deterioration of many school buildings has been one of the main issues at this

raise the capital and take responsibility for the work. Money currently devoted to maintenance would be handed over to the consortium, which would make a profit from the resulting efficiency savings in contracts of up to 20 years.

Mr Blunkett claimed that this would enable hundreds of millions of pounds to go into school premises each year without increasing public-sector borrowing. "By pooling resources and working in partnership, we can ensure that sound advice is available, bureaucracy is minimised and private lenders are sufficiently confident to take part."

The scheme differs from the Government's Private Finance Initiative because groups of schools or whole education authorities would be involved, rather than single institutions. Mr Blunkett said the banks considered lending to individual schools a "non-starter".

The deterioration of many school buildings has been one of the main issues at this



David Blunkett addressing the conference yesterday. His warm reception was in contrast to the heckling endured by Gillian Shephard

year's teaching union conferences. The NUT is threatening walkouts in many schools next term if a national audit of premises funds buildings to be unsafe. An emergency motion at the conference condemned the Government's measures to deregulate school premises. Labour has developed the scheme in discussions with Hambros Bank and is enter-

ing talks with the British Bankers' Association. The £3.2 billion backlog of repairs identified by a recent survey could be cleared in a "reasonable period of time", Mr Blunkett said. Labour could not promise instant improvements but would commit itself to a decade of investment in education. Doug McAvoy, the general

secretary of the NUT, welcomed the plan but said Labour had to be prepared to carry out the repair programme even if the scheme did not work. If necessary, this should extend to raising taxes. Graham Lane, who chairs the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, said local authorities would be thrilled by the

scheme. "It is a rare example of imaginative thinking to solve a serious problem and I am convinced it would work." More than 600 schools still have outside lavatories and 750,000 children are taught in temporary classrooms, according to the latest survey of school premises. A report by the two main local government associations found that

schools were suffering an "appalling level of neglect". The need to enhance capital spending has long been recognised, but restraints on public expenditure have frustrated education ministers' plans. The local authorities' report said the amount they had been allowed to spend on capital projects had been cut by 22 per cent in four years.

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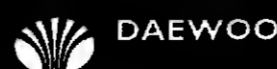
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## Rosetta flies a million miles to seek comet's heart of stone

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SMALL craft are to attempt to land on an orbiting comet as part of a unique space mission. Experiments will be carried out on samples taken from Wirtanen's comet by a tiny landing craft's robot arm and the results relayed to Earth. At the end of the mission, with Wirtanen's comet approaching the sun, the mother ship will move to 50,000 km behind the comet's tail. From there it will fly slowly into the dust and solar wind exuding from the comet, taking measurements and eventually crashing into Wirtanen's nucleus, ten years after launch.

Details of the mission, which will rendezvous with Wirtanen's comet early next century, are expected to take centre stage at a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society in Liverpool this week. Researchers believe that if the project is successful it will shed new light on the origins of the Universe and the planets. The Giotto space probe had a rendezvous with Halley's comet a few years ago but no space craft has landed on a comet.

Until recently there were doubts over whether the experiment would get off the ground after Britain pressed for funding cuts at the European Space Agency. But Peter Bond, space science adviser to the society, said yesterday that the Government's Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council had found money for the venture.

"I think this will be an amazing mission," Mr Bond said. "It will be the first time we've ever followed a comet for millions of miles, watching how it develops as it gets closer to the sun, and the first time anything has landed on a comet."

The probes will hopefully soft-land on the nucleus and measure the surface, how hard it is, what it's made of and what gases come out of it." The spacecraft, Rosetta, is named after the Egyptian town where, in 1799, the Rosetta stone was discovered. It is scheduled to blast off from French Guiana in January 2003. The main landing probe will be a



Champollion: first to decipher Rosetta stone

45kg craft named Champollion, after Jean-Francois Champollion, the Frenchman who made the first complete decipherment of the Rosetta stone.

British universities and institutes, including Sheffield University, the Open University, Imperial College and the Mullard Space Science Laboratory, will have instruments on board. Rosetta will travel through space for eight years before intercepting the comet 700 million kilometres from earth, near Jupiter's orbit. Mission planners will use the voyage to pass two asteroids, 3840 Mumstrobell and 2530 Shipka, 300 and then 2,100 days after launch.

On approaching Wirtanen's comet, Rosetta will fire thrusters to slow its approach so that it orbits around the comet's head, or nucleus. Here it will track the comet for about three years, sending data back to Earth.

It was hoped that the Rosetta mission would bring a piece of the comet back to Earth but budget constraints have altered the plans. Instead, two small probes will be dropped from the mother craft onto Wirtanen's surface.

The Champollion probe has been built by CNES, the French space agency. The other, RoLand (or Rosetta Lander), was built by German companies with help from European institutes, including the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

While Champollion is designed to last a matter of days, RoLand should function for several months.

Files to of spy Germ

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Mystery of 'Officer in the Tower' Files to solve riddle of spy who loved German women

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

A SIXTY-YEAR mystery involving high treason, sexual obsession and a mysterious blonde is expected to be solved soon with the release of secret Government papers about Norman Baillie-Stewart, the last Briton to be imprisoned in the Tower of London.

A lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders, Baillie-Stewart was twice accused of betraying his country, once for selling secrets to the Germans for £90 in 1933 and again after making pro-German broadcasts during the war. In the secrets trial, he claimed that the money was in fact given to him by a Berlin blonde called Marie Louise in return for sexual favours.

He was sent to the Tower after being described at his court martial as "a pathological case with a fixation for German women".

Thirty years after he died in a Dublin bar in June 1966, the Home Office is to release the papers about the "Officer in the Tower", in June or July. Historians hope they will reveal the truth about the identity of Marie Louise and clear-up claims by the War Office, always denied by Baillie-Stewart - that he had made a full confession.

The papers should also throw light on the farcical circumstances in which Baillie-Stewart was forced to take exercise at the Tower in full public view. For six weeks in 1933, crowds queued to see the tall and strikingly handsome young traitor - said to be irresistible to women - parade daily in full Highland dress, escorted by an armed Coldstream Guards officer.

The son of a distinguished Indian army officer, Baillie-Stewart had trained at the Royal Naval College, Dart-

mouth, and then at Sandhurst. He won decorations for service on the North-West Frontier and was thought to be a model officer until his arrest at the age of 23.

Details of his love life gripped public interest as Baillie-Stewart claimed at his court martial that money sent from Germany was a gift from a grateful 22-year-old fair-headed woman, Marie Louise, to whom he had made love in a public park in Berlin.

At one point in his trial, the judge was moved to remind the court that Baillie-Stewart was being tried for breaches of the Official Secrets Act, not immorality.

On his release in 1937, the disgraced Baillie-Stewart went to live in Germany, where he applied for citizenship. His love affair was always with the German nation, and German women in particular, rather than Nazism. He claimed that his activities in helping Jews to escape from Austria earned him the nickname "the Scarlet Pimpernel".

Yet by 1940 he had begun the original "Germany calling" broadcasts as the first "Lord Haw-Haw" before William Joyce - who was hanged as a traitor in 1945 - took over the role. Baillie-Stewart was arrested some months after the end of the war in the Austrian Tyrol. He was dressed in traditional local garb of leather shorts, white stockings, embroidered braces and a green forest's jacket. At his second trial he insisted that he had applied for German nationality in 1938 and could therefore not be charged with aiding the enemy, but the court ruled that no change of nationality was valid during wartime. Sentencing him to another five years, the trial

judge told him: "You are one of the worst citizens your country has ever produced."

After his release, Baillie-Stewart settled in Dublin where for a time he made a living selling cheap Wild West stories. Still debonair and full of public school charm, in 1950 he married a beautiful Irish shopgirl half his age. He settled down to a life of commerce and shortly before he died made money designing a ship for the Harland and Wolff yard.

Towards the end of his life, Baillie-Stewart claimed that Marie Louise did not exist. Yet over the years, several people claimed to have found her. A Labour MP told the House of Commons in 1933 that she was a Berlin Jewess, Olga Israel, who did not come forward as Baillie-Stewart's trial because she feared the wrath of Hitler. Shortly afterwards, the French secret service claimed to have arrested her on espionage charges in Finland and said that she was, in fact, a Russian. After the Second World War, a British agent claimed to have found her still living in Germany.



From left, Frances Borden, Charlotte Sorapure, Sarah Raphael, Sarah Florence and Harriet Barber in front of Raphael's *Sometimes A River II*

Outback vision puts artist in the frame for £36,000

THE Australian Outback has inspired the painter Sarah Raphael to win Britain's biggest art prize. The 35-year-old daughter of the novelist Frederic Raphael led the all-women group of finalists in the £36,000 NatWest 90s Prize for Art.

Her winning works, combining the figurative and abstract, include a three-piece series titled *Sometimes A River*, based on her six-week obser-

ations of the Outback, and *Gibber Desert Constellation*, which depicts a story desert without sky.

Raphael, a southerner from Camberwell, southeast London, is best known for her portraiture. She said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to win the prize. You never expect to win things, but you have nothing to lose by entering competitions. What matters is that you feel you are getting

better." Her work can be seen in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

The second prize of £10,000 was won by Frances Borden, 25, from Bampton, Devon. Charlotte Sorapure, 27, from Blackheath, south London, and Sarah Florence, 32, from Norwich, shared the £5,000 award for third place. A student

award of £1,000 went to Harriet Barber, 27, from Blandford, Dorset. Two watercolours by the Prince of Wales went on public display yesterday at the family home of his children's nanny, Tiggy Legge-Bourke. The Prince is one of 80 artists exhibiting at Pezayrath, in Crickhowell, Powys. Neither he nor Miss Legge-Bourke were at the exhibition yesterday.

"MARIE LOUISE" THE GIRL OF INSCRUTABLE MYSTERY

Advertisement for 'Marie Louise' featuring a portrait of a woman and text: 'Her Bank Note Gifts to Young British Officer', 'Amazing Court-Martial Story of Love-Making', 'DENIAL OF STATE'S BETRAYAL'. Includes a small image of a document or book cover.

Coma victims 'to replace animals in experiments'

By Adrian Lise. MEDICAL experiments could eventually be carried out on patients with severe brain damage instead of animals, according to a professor of medical ethics. David Morton of Birmingham University envisaged the day when people in long-term comas, with no chance of recovery, could be used for research. There have been recent cases where patients in a persistent vegetative state have recovered after having been diagnosed as beyond help. Professor Morton, an adviser to the Government on laboratory animal research, said it was feasible that people could carry cards which allowed their organs and body tissue to be used for research as well as donation. In those cases and where food and water had been withdrawn the medical profession would have to tackle the possibility of experiments beginning while the patient was still alive. "I am not advocating anything. I am reflecting what will come about as a real, practical situation and what may come about in the next few years." He said experimentation was already taking place on human volunteers. "Very, very rarely something goes wrong and these people may die and one might argue therefore it would be better and you would do less harm if you did the work on people who you

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Advertisement for 'BUY NOW PAY UP TO 12 MONTHS LATER' featuring various kitchen appliances like Electrolux, Kenwood, Tricity Bendix, Hotpoint, and Creda. Includes prices and 'COMET PRICE' information.

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# Lawyers join scheme to represent hard-up clients

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Man in care starved to death

A pensioner who was visited three times a day, seven days a week by social workers who helped to prepare his meals starved to death in his ward-decontaminated flat.

Lloyd Wilkinson, 79, a bomb-disposal expert in the Second World War, was found dead in bed at his home in Bedford the day after his last visit.

The cause of death was given as starvation at an inquest opened and adjourned by Bedfordshire coroner David Morris. An internal inquiry has been started by Bedfordshire Social Services.

## Union ballot tied

A ballot over industrial action among members of the Communication Workers Union in the South West ended in an 862-all draw. It is the first known case of a dead heat in a big ballot in the history of the union movement.

## Cost of dying up

Funeral costs have risen by 33 per cent to an average of £1,523 over the past three years, almost six times the inflation rate. Burials in the South East cost 22 per cent more than average and half as much again as the South West, the cheapest region.

## Hilton evacuated

Five hundred guests and staff were evacuated from the Hilton hotel in Park Lane, central London, after a fire in a guest bedroom. The fire broke out in a suite on the 22nd floor, causing smoke damage to adjoining rooms. There were no injuries.

## Spy base for sale

The American surveillance base at Brawdry, Dyfed, is being put up for sale by its owner, the Ministry of Defence. The seven-acre site, surrounded by security fencing and watchtowers, was used by the Americans for more than 20 years.

## Called to account

BBC managers are being sent on two-day training breaks at hotels to learn how to use a new telephone system. But the corporation claims the exercise saves licence-payers' money because it avoids paying the phone company to run the system.

## Five strike lucky

Five ticket holders share this week's National Lottery rollover-jackpot of £21.2 million, each winning £4.2 million. A further 40 winners receive £84,210 each for matching five numbers plus the bonus ball. Winning numbers, page 18

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME of Britain's leading lawyers are joining a scheme to represent hard-up but worthy clients for nothing. The first case chosen for this treatment is that of a woman who has been ordered to return a 10-year-old Zulu boy living with her family to his natural parents in South African township.

(for the public good), to be launched formally by the Bar Council next month. The Court of Appeal ordered last month that the Zulu boy, who cannot be identified, must return to South Africa four years after the white woman, who now lives in Maida Vale, west London, brought him to England for adoption. Lord Justice Neill rejected the idea of adoption and noted that the boy, known only as P, had lost his ability to speak Zulu and that his links with his homeland were growing more tenuous.

Mr Levy succeeded last week in obtaining a stay of the order until the end of this month and hopes to persuade the House of Lords to grant a hearing before then. The Bar already runs a Free Representation Unit, in which Bar students take on tribunal cases for nothing. Individual chambers, specialist Bar groups, regional circuits of barristers and City solicitors have all launched free schemes, but this is the first to be run at Bar Council level.

It will draw upon top lawyers who are used to high earnings. Normally a partner in a City solicitors' practice would charge £200 an hour and a Queen's Counsel working on a court hearing could be on a brief fee of between £10,000 and £50,000, depending on the complexity of the case, plus a daily top-up fee of £2,500.

The scheme, which is not intended to be a substitute for legal aid, will have a full-time administrator and will operate from rooms in Gray's Inn. About £20,000 has been raised by the profession to launch the scheme, which will qualify for charitable status. Other top barristers who have signalled their support include Peter Goldsmith, QC, a former Bar chairman, and reputedly one of the highest earners at the commercial Bar. He said: "I believe there is a

strong moral argument that those lawyers who can afford to commit their time should be prepared to provide some *pro bono* work." A management committee will be set up to sift applications for support and to establish ground rules for the kind of cases that will qualify. Mr Goldsmith was responsible for contacting Mr Levy to take on the case of the Zulu boy after another solicitor, Beverley Golden, highlighted his plight in a Sunday newspaper. She said she was delighted that the lawyers were to seek leave to appeal. After the Court of Appeal hearing, at which it was ordered that the boy should have no contact with the white family for one year, lawyers advised that there was no chance of an appeal.

Law, page 33

## Rabies law traps sad dogs and Englishmen who went out for new life in the sun

# Pet subject of the ex-pats threatens to cost Tory seats

FROM BILL FROST IN ANTIBES

AN estimated 100,000 British expatriates on the Côte d'Azur are united as never before in a campaign which should worry John Major. The lotus eaters who retired to the sun are usually Tory postal voters, but they say the Prime Minister will suffer at the next election for condemning their pets to permanent exile or death in quarantine.

They are determined to overturn or flout British anti-rabies laws which prevent them bringing their animals home for short visits. The average £1,500 cost of the required six-month quarantine is attacked as prohibitive, and at least ten animals are said to die behind the wire every four weeks. The case of Quintus and Bendeux is typical. Despite their pampered Mediterranean lifestyle, the two pedigree Australian terriers (bred in Worcester, formative years spent in Chelsea) are really missing England, according to their owners.

But British law says that they and an estimated 200,000 four-legged British exiles in the South of France might be rabid. It's the hottest issue in a once steadfastly Tory ex-pat community now threatening to vote Labour. Michael and Judy Sabey brought Quintus and Bendeux from Chelsea to a palatial home in an exclusive corner of Saint Laurent du Var outside



Michael Sabey and his wife Judy with their dogs: "All the Britons out here are obsessive about this subject"

## LOVE ME, LOVE MY BEST FRIEND

MORE than 40 per cent of dog owners would rather spend a weekend with their pet than with their partners or friends, according to a survey. As they grow older, humans become even more passionate about their dogs: almost 60 per cent of dog-owning pensioners said they loved their pets more than their partners. At any age, almost half of women owners put their dog before the men in their life.



The survey of 2,000 adults, carried out for a dog-food manufacturer, showed that nine out of ten of those questioned felt that dogs had a much happier existence than their owners. Dogs take priority at feeding time, too: about 60 per cent said that the family dog was likely to be fed long before

the family itself. David Watson, consultant vet for the company, said: "In an increasingly stressful world, the family dog is a blissful constant. Perpetual to the hectic 90s is finding that one in three dog owners believe their dogs help to reduce stress." Owners said that gaining a dependable friend was the main reason to keep a dog.

and smuggled their pets home rather than leave them pining in quarantine. It's quite easy if you know how." The Sabeyes and their numerous allies in the South of France point to the House of Commons all-party agriculture select committee report of October 1994 which unanimously recommended a review of the existing law. The committee said that dogs and cats should be positively identified by microchip or tattoo: have spent at least six months in an approved country before coming to Britain; be vaccinated from the age of three

months against rabies and be blood-tested by an approved laboratory to ensure the shots conferred immunity. Quintus and Bendeux qualify on every count. So too do the majority of British-owned pets on the Côte d'Azur, say the Sabeyes and their army of friends. The ex-pats have powerful allies at home to lobby for them. The great and the good — poets, vets and millionaire dog-lovers — have all added their support to the "Passports For Pets" campaign.

However, the Government shelved the committee's recommendations against rabies and be blood-tested by an approved laboratory to ensure the shots conferred immunity. Quintus and Bendeux qualify on every count. So too do the majority of British-owned pets on the Côte d'Azur, say the Sabeyes and their army of friends. The ex-pats have powerful allies at home to lobby for them. The great and the good — poets, vets and millionaire dog-lovers — have all added their support to the "Passports For Pets" campaign.

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## Magic pill for flagging sex life some years off

"ISN'T there a pill I could take, doctor?" is the usual reaction from middle-aged or older men when offered a penile injection to restore a sex-life that has withered for want of an erection. The hope that a pill will become available for these male patients has been boosted by reports that the long-awaited results of a British trial of a drug, sildenafil, made by Pfizer, is to be presented at the meeting of the American Urological Association next month. It will still be some years before the pill is generally available.



## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

will correct impotence if the penile mechanics have irretrievably broken down, either because of failure of the blood supply — the coronary arteries are not the only ones to become furred with advancing years — or because of leaking valves in the corpora cavernosa, the cylinders in the penis which become engorged with blood during sexual excitement.

The Pfizer trial of sildenafil has been taking place for some years but occasionally wanders slip out from a clinic in Kent or Sussex of its apparent success and the consequent optimism of both the doctors and their patients. The drug is taken about an hour before intercourse is expected to take place and enhances only the effect of

sexual excitement. If the evening does not follow the expected pattern and a forgotten meeting with the parochial church council is remembered, there is no embarrassment from visual evidence of a frustrated desire. Caverject — prostaglandin E — which relaxes the smooth muscles within the corpora cavernosa, is made by Upjohn. The injection is given into the corpora cavernosa through a very fine needle held at right-angles. Patients assure me that it is virtually painless but produces a response that recalls memories of their youth. Unlike the erections produced by earlier intrapenile injections, those produced by Caverject usually wear off within an

hour and problems from priapism, a persistent erection lasting for more than four hours, are exceptionally rare. Other methods of delivering prostaglandin E have been tried; there was success in using it as a cream designed to be squeezed into the urethra, but despite an encouraging hospital trial there are no plans to market it commercially. Another pharmaceutical firm is well advanced in its plans to introduce a cream containing a vasodilator drug that will improve the penile blood supply when it is applied externally to the skin. Initial results from the use of this cream have been good and it is expected that it will go into manufacture.

## Hepatitis fear prompts call for patients to use own blood

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE discovery of a new strain of hepatitis led to a call yesterday for patients to use their own blood in transfusions. Hepatitis G is the latest virus to be identified in human beings and is probably carried by more than 800,000 people in the United Kingdom. Lesley Kay, a leading consultant haematologist, said new diseases were always being found which required extra screening of blood samples, and suggested that patients have their own blood removed and stored before operations if only a little was required. "I am a big advocate of having your own blood because we are forever chasing the next virus," Dr Kay, of Medical Diagnostic Laborato-

ries, which serves several major private London hospitals, said. "What is the next danger from blood? We had HIV-1 then we discovered there was a variant, HIV-2. We had Hepatitis C then we realised there was a variant, Hepatitis G. With worldwide travel, sexual freedom and drug abuse we are going to get more of these viruses." Blood in Britain is already screened for syphilis, Hepatitis B and C and two types of HIV. Foreign countries use more stringent tests for Hepatitis B and also look for HTLV-1, a virus that can lead to cancer. Hepatitis G has been identified in the past year and there are already calls for screening. Already some parts

of Britain, particularly in the North of England, are using surgery techniques in which the results of bleeding can be returned to the patient. In some surgery, such as knee replacements, bleeding happens when the tourniquet is removed. Early studies of Hepatitis G suggest it is carried by at least 1.5 per cent of blood donors. It appears to be related to Hepatitis C, which is associated with a spectrum of liver problems including cancer. The effects of the new virus are still unknown but, since it seems more widespread than C, it probably is less dangerous. Scientists suspect that it has been in the human population for thousands of years but is only now being recognised.

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BOOK OFFER

## At a Service Near You

Ruth Gledhill, religious affairs correspondent of *The Times*, visited nearly 200 places of worship for the series in *Weekend, At your service*, and this book is a collection of 63 of those engaging articles.

Not quite the ecclesiastical equivalent of *The Good Pub Guide*, but Gledhill does assess the quality of the leadership, architecture, sermon, music, liturgy, after-service care and spiritual high at the churches she visits.

She describes the atmosphere, the sort of people who attend, the style of the worship, the quality of preaching and anything that particularly strikes her, even the coffee.

As the daughter of an Anglican clergyman, Gledhill has been attending church regularly since childhood and the experience of visiting so many has had an impact on her own faith.

"I began the series as a churchgoing Anglican with fairly traditionalist views," she says. "The experience has made me more liberal in belief and more open to evangelical styles of worship, in particular the joy and movement that comes with some of the best spiritual songs."

Ruth believes churches are more than places of worship. They are also community centres in a world where neighbourhood communities are vanishing. They provide an oasis of peace in a noisy environment. The best churches preach faith as the foundation for true healing and happiness and impart to her the sense of God's presence.

*At a Service Near You* makes enjoyable reading. Anyone who wants to find out about a church in an area they are visiting, or simply curious about local churches, will find it extremely helpful.

Readers can get a copy of *At a Service Near You: British Churches — The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* for only £6.49 (normal price £7.99) including postage and packing and with an inserted book plate signed by the author.

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سنة ١٤١٧



# Troops in South Korea placed on high alert

By MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMERICAN troops in South Korea were put on high alert at the weekend, as a third incursion of North Korean soldiers into the demilitarised zone yesterday raised tensions in the divided peninsula.

About 300 heavily armed soldiers entered the joint security area at the Panmunjom border crossing in 12 lorries. They began to leave more than two hours later. The violation of the armistice, which ended the Korean War in 1953, came after two incursions on Friday and Saturday. After the first, President Kim Young Sam of South Korea ordered "heightened, iron-fist" defence.

Under the armistice, only 35 military police from each side may enter the 2½-mile-wide demilitarised zone. Each incursion was larger than the last, taking place in the evening and lasting about two hours. On Saturday soldiers carrying rifles and machineguns entered the buffer zone in nine lorries, but did no more than demonstrate their defiance. On Friday, 120



North Korean soldiers stayed in the area for two hours.

South Korea announced a state of emergency around the joint security area, and some units were ordered to "prepare to deal with a possible emergency". They are on the highest alert in 15 years. President Kim called the first incursion a dangerous escalation of Pyongyang's provocations, while a North Korean newspaper accused the South of preparing an invasion and said the peninsula was on "the eve of war". The paper said North Korea would be forced to take a counter-measure. United Nations forces along

the frontier said there was no immediate threat from the North. The United States, which has 37,000 troops in South Korea, announced increased surveillance after the first incursion, but otherwise responded in a low-key manner. A statement from the UN Command and the South Korea-US Combined Forces Command said yesterday that they were "concerned" by the latest events. However, it added: "The combined and allied leadership see no other evidence of movement of troops or other military that would suggest any imminent threat."

James Laney, the American Ambassador to Seoul, met Gong Ro Myung, the Foreign Minister, and they confirmed that they would maintain a "strong defence readiness" against the North. The State Department said that, although the incursions violated truces, they appeared to reflect North Korea's attempt to distance itself from the Korean War armistice and to deal directly with Washington.

North Korea has taken an increasingly aggressive line towards the South. In 1994 it

withdrew from the military armistice commission that oversees the truce and banned UN monitors from entering its territory at the Panmunjom crossing. It has demanded a bilateral peace agreement with Washington.

President Clinton is due to visit South Korea next week on his way to Japan.

North Korea has a million men under arms compared with 650,000 South Korean troops. The North's Chinese and Soviet-era weapons are outdated, however, and strategists say they would be no match for the better-equipped South Korean army.

American officials suggest that the latest incidents are intended to increase diplomatic leverage rather than serve as a prelude to a frontal attack across the armistice line.

The timing appears to be linked to South Korea's parliamentary elections on Thursday. President Kim's New Korea Party is expected to lose its absolute majority in the national assembly, but the North's sabre-rattling may rally voters in the South around the Government.



South Koreans look through telescopes across the demilitarised zone yesterday

## Kashmir hostages 'held in village'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS  
IN SRINAGAR

INDIAN troops have pulled out of the Wadwan Hills in southeast Kashmir after identifying the area where they believe four Western hostages, including two Britons, are being held by Muslim extremists in a village hut.

The army said it feared an accidental confrontation between the militants and troops which could endanger the captives' lives. According to military intelligence, based on sightings by local people, all four men are alive.

Scotland Yard officers, trained in hostage negotiation, are in India in the hope of finding a breakthrough. Paul Wells and Keith Mangan from Britain, Donald Hutchings of America, and Dirk Hasert, a German, have entered their tenth month of captivity and radio contacts with Al Faran, the kidnap group, have broken down. The authorities are baffled by the long silence and the main theory is that the captors do not know how to end the crisis.



Generalissimo and Madame Chiang flank Earl Mountbatten on a visit to British India in 1943

## Chiang's home town mourns loss of its Taiwanese tourists

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN XIEKOU, CHINA

JUST two months ago, this picturesque little town near China's eastern coast was swarming with Taiwanese tourists visiting the birthplace of Chiang Kai-shek, the late Chinese Nationalist Party leader, but for the past few weeks since Peking launched military exercises in the Taiwan Strait not a single Taiwanese has appeared, locals said yesterday.

"They are afraid to come, and business is hurting," said Chiang Suzhong, 37, who like many people in Xiekou shares a surname with the leader who died in 1975 and claims distant kinship to the man he calls lord. "Last year we had

Taiwanese tourists every day, but now because of the recent tension, they have stopped coming." The younger Chiang is a guide to the birthplace, former home and school of the Nationalist leader,

who fled with his troops to Taiwan in 1949 when the Communist armies of his arch-enemy, Mao Tse-tung, won control of the mainland. In the anti-landlord campaign of the early 1950s, many other Chiang descendants were shot, imprisoned or sent to labour camps, locals said.

Yet there are still plenty of visitors to the Chiang ancestral home in Zhejiang province, although they are less wealthy Chinese citizens, not free-spending Taiwanese. Altogether one and a half million came last year.

The Taiwanese became nervous over fears that conflict would break out between China and Taiwan during the war games which ended in late March, after the Taiwanese presidential elections easily won by incumbent President Lee Teng-hui, who may have been helped by the Chinese sabre-rattling.

Surprisingly, Generalissimo Chiang, once Mao's nemesis, has undergone something of a rehabilitation in China, at a time when Peking has heaped abuse on Mr Lee as a "splitist" alleged-

ly bent on seeking independence for the prosperous island territory regarded by China as a renegade province.

Damage done by the Red Guards, who smashed Chiang family graves and scattered the bones of Chiang's mother, has been repaired, as has earlier devastation caused by Japanese bombs.

People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers, carrying their caps, were at the weekend touring the cobbled courtyards of Chiang's old residence, although their colleagues in neighbouring Fujian province were only last month firing missiles into the

sea off Taiwan. "Chiang made valuable contributions to the anti-Japanese struggle," said an elderly visitor from Shanghai, touring exhibits which included snapshots of Chiang with Churchill and

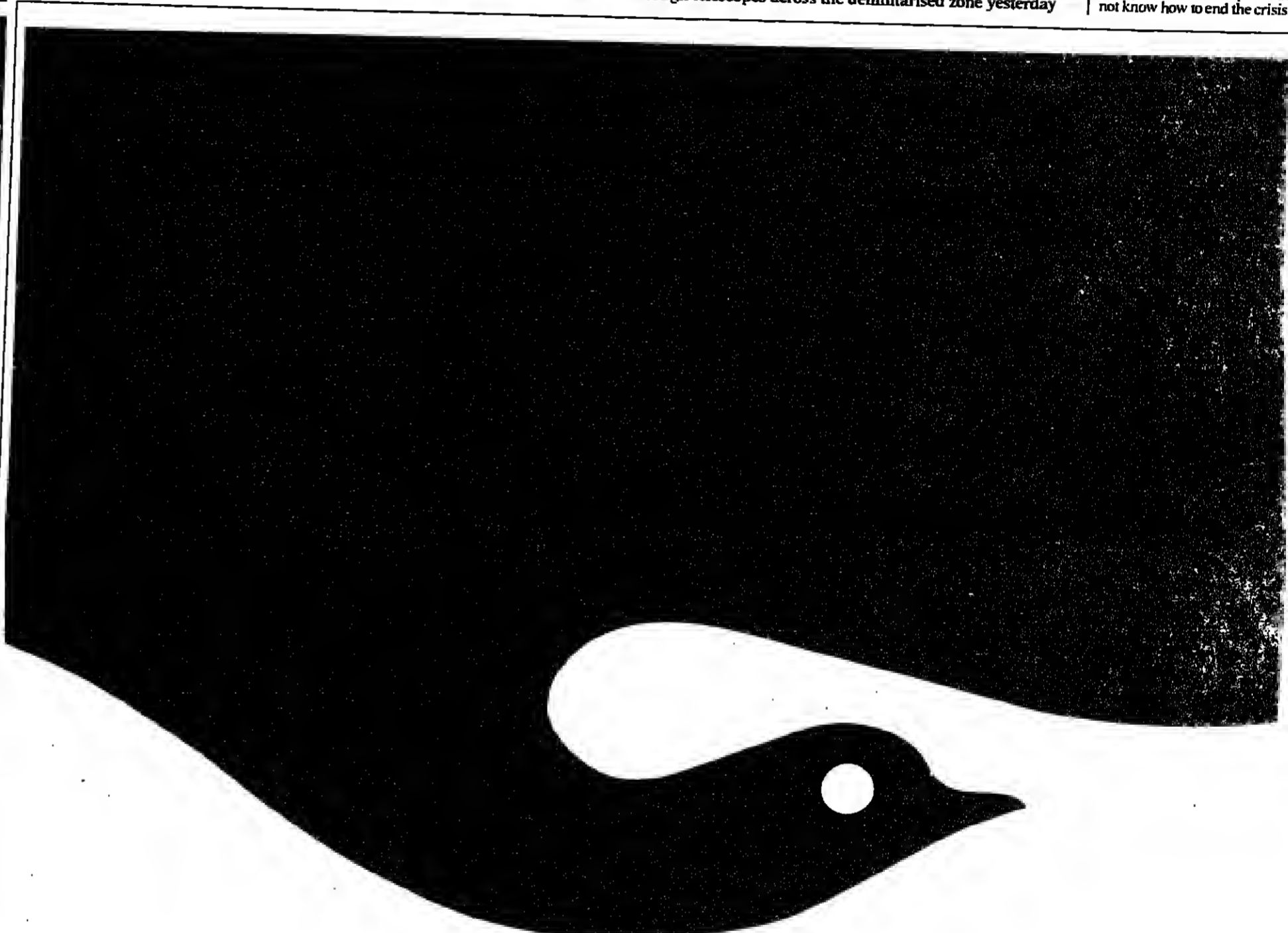
Roosevelt. "Mao and Chiang may have had ideological differences, but Chiang always believed that China was one country and that Taiwan was part of China, unlike the present rulers there. The situation has been a little tense recently. Perhaps our Taiwan compatriots will return soon."

Grassroots economic matters, such as the relative prosperity that has come to this once neglected town since Peking began a more open policy towards Taiwan in 1986, and even encouragement to Taiwanese business to invest in Zhejiang, in part explain Chiang's return from purgatory.

Uneasy Taiwanese businessmen, 100,000 of whom have invested £16.5 billion since China's opening, certainly hope for a return of the strategy of co-operation between Mao and Chiang for a rare period in the 1930s, as do traders and guides like young Chiang who drives visitors around in a canopied bicycle trishaw.

But it may be some time before they make the pilgrimage here again.

Chiang always believed that Taiwan was part of China



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# Mangled proverb led to arrest in Unabomber hunt

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A MANGLED proverb provided the FBI with a clue that led them to believe Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, a 53-year-old hermit from the wilds of Montana, is the most wanted man in America. In letters to his octogenarian mother, Mr Kaczynski used the expression "you can't eat your cake and have it, too". The same inverted construction was used by Unabomber, who is wanted for a deadly bombing campaign which lasted for 18 years.

Mr Kaczynski, who was arrested last week, is being detained on a holding charge related to a homemade bomb found in his cabin. A grand jury in Great Falls, Montana, may confirm further charges later this month.

Wanda Kaczynski allowed FBI agents to look at letters from her son that she had kept over the years. She did so, confident that they would prove he had nothing to do with the Unabomber.

In addition to the "eat your cake" maxim, the letters contained rambling philosophical monologues which bear comparisons to the 35,000-word manifesto sent by the Unabomber to newspapers last year. Mr Kaczynski's letters were typed, as was the bomber's manifesto. Examples of the two will be examined by Marin Tytell, an 82-year-old typewriter expert from New York. Ironically, if the technophobe Unabomber had relied on a computer printer he might have denied the FBI vital evidence.

Unabomber investigators, who were tipped off by Mr Kaczynski's younger brother, appear increasingly confident that he is their man, but the United States Attorney Gener-

al's office continued to exercise legal caution. Experts have speculated that Mr Kaczynski could be tried in the various states where the Unabomber struck. The District Attorney in Sacramento, California, boasted that her city was the easiest place in which to secure a death sentence, and Pete Wilson, California's Governor, said he would work to ensure that the trial was held there.

The object of their unseemly squabbling, Ted Kaczynski, looked perplexed by the array of cameras and reporters' shouts of "Are you the Unabomber?" as he faced the media. He walked busily, his head bobbing up and down as he checked the ground, with his hands held together like a monk in cloisters. The former maths professor's unwashed hair is springy, and his filthy old clothes have been replaced by a bright orange prison jumpsuit.

Outside Lincoln, Montana, FBI agents allowed reporters a closer look at the outside of the handbuilt, 10ft by 12ft plywood



Kaczynski: expert is to examine his typewriter

cabin where Mr Kaczynski lived, enduring the merciless winters without electricity or plumbing. In thick snows he must have struggled outside to use a nearby stream as a toilet. Inside, the cabin was dark, the only natural light filtering through two inadequate, dirty windows. The single door has three locks, a level of protection rare in a rural community where neighbours lend each other tools, swap vegetables and leave the door open.

Investigators are going through the contents of 40 boxes of assorted belongings found in a loft in the cabin. One neighbour recalled him as "a sweet little neighbour", but Carol Wells, a Lincoln shopkeeper, said that "this was not his home, just his hiding place".

Police have yet to understand how a seemingly penniless hermit can allegedly have conducted a nationwide bombing campaign. Mr Kaczynski made occasional bus journeys, using the daily service connecting Lincoln to Montana's capital, Helena, 30 miles away, and to Missoula, about 100 miles to the west. From there one can catch Greyhound buses to destinations across the country.

For Lincoln, meanwhile, a small economic boom is taking place thanks to the massed ranks of reporters and FBI investigators. Wayne Cashman, owner of the Blackfoot River Inn, said: "This time of year is usually really slow. It has been a real help." Souvenirs were swiftly marketed, from \$40 (\$26) Unabomber T-shirts to \$20 baseball caps. There has also been the sighting of the first tax in Lincoln, hired in Helena by a CBS News reporter.



Athletes in period running gear help to re-enact the first modern Olympics at the Panathenean stadium in Athens where the ancient Games were revived 100 years ago.

More than 30,000 people braved unusual cold to join the raucous party. Athletes from the original ten countries, Australia, Britain, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hunga-

## First Olympic Games re-run

ry, Sweden and America, competed on Saturday night in some of the 43 original events for olive wreaths and silver and bronze medals — there were no gold medals in 1896.

"We had a lot of fun. You get overwhelmed by the history here which can't be compared to any medal. I can say I've run in this stadium," Roger Kingdom, a two-time gold medalist, said. The centennial Games in Atlanta this summer will include 10,000 athletes from 197 countries competing in 271 events. The Olympic torch is being taken around the Greek Islands before it begins its journey to Georgia. (Reuters)

# Albright tipped for the top in next Clinton Cabinet

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WHEN St Mary's girls' school in North Carolina wanted to invite Madeleine Albright, the Ambassador to the United Nations, to give a speech last month it enlisted the help of its right-wing local senator.

Jesse Helms, America's harshest UN critic, wrote to Mrs Albright to persuade her to visit his rural, tobacco-growing constituency. The ambassador accepted the invitation on condition that Mr Helms appear at the event to introduce her.

The event went swimmingly. Mrs Albright used the occasion to make a policy address on UN-American relations. Mr Helms nodded approvingly at every mention of UN reform and refrained from criticising her proposal that Washington pay off its billion-dollar debt to the world body over the next five years.

The gathering was the clearest sign yet of one of the most curious courtships in current American politics between a diehard Democrat and the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"He is charmed by women: she knows how to charm an old Southern senator," one political insider explained. "It's all gooey. It makes me want to throw up."

Mrs Albright's blossoming relationship with Mr Helms is one of a number of factors that have made her the clear front-runner to succeed Warren Christopher as Secretary of State in a second Clinton Administration.

Others are lining up for Mr Christopher's job, should President Clinton be re-elected in November, as looks likely. They include Richard Holbrooke, the former Bosnia troubleshooter now working on Wall Street; Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State; and Lee Hamilton, a Demo-

crat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. According to the conventional wisdom, however, Mrs Albright is the woman to beat.

The significance of her friendship with Mr Helms is that his committee, with its Republican majority, controls the confirmation by the Senate of the next Secretary of State.

This fact is not lost on Mrs Albright, who began her political career in the 1970s as an aide to Edmund Muskie, then a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The Prague-born daughter of a Czech diplomat, sentenced to death in absentia in 1949 by his country's new Communist rulers, Mrs Albright has impeccable credentials as a Cold Warrior. As UN Ambassador, she has taken a decidedly neo-conservative line on Iraq, Cuba, North Korea, Libya and the Palestinians.

Some Democrats complain that Mrs Albright spends too much time in Capitol Hill wooing Congressional leaders. However, she is said to have impressed Mr Clinton with her sage advice on Bosnia last summer when America finally unleashed its air power against the Serbs.



Albright: wooing votes on Senate committee

# Teenage boys kill themselves for love of a schoolgirl, 12

BY QUENTIN LETTS

TWO 15-year-old boys involved in a love triangle killed themselves in desperation at their romantic plight, after police stopped them for speeding in a stolen car. An alert state trooper managed to stop the 12-year-old girl they both loved from shooting herself as well.

A weeping Jennifer Waldroup was restrained by the Arkansas state trooper moments after her would-be boyfriends, Joshua Rogers and Kevin Hyde, died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds to the head from a .22 pistol.

The three children, from North Carolina, had stolen the car and were miles from home when they were spotted driving through Arkansas at more than 100mph.

Police chased them until the car eventually pulled up at a lay-by, where Corporal Freddie Hudson left his patrol car to talk to them.

As the state trooper approached the vehicle, there were two shots as the boys killed themselves.

He rushed towards the car and found Jennifer scrambling around on the floor of

the car, trying to find the pistol. "They had all agreed to kill themselves and the girl would have kept her end of the bargain if our officer had not been alert," said Wayne Jordan, of the Arkansas state police. "She was screaming 'Kill me, I want to die'."

After being calmed by Corporal Hudson, the girl told investigators that the two boys were in a quandary because they were both in love with her.

"We were going west," she said. "We didn't know where. We were just going."

# Weeping Clinton salutes Brown

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A simple ceremony, the bodies of Ron Brown, the American Secretary of Commerce, and 32 other people who died in the Dubrovnik air crash, were returned to American soil as their grieving families and President Clinton looked on.

A 19-gun salute echoed at dusk on Saturday across the Dover air force base in Delaware where the American trade mission to help the Balkans rebuild in peace ended in tears.

Mr Clinton, his voice breaking, said: "The sun is going down on this day. The next time it rises it will be Easter morning, a day that marks the passage from loss and despair to hope and redemption... What they did while the sun was out will last with us forever."

Mr Clinton paid special tribute to Mr Brown, a political ally and an architect of his own 1992 election victory: "He was a noble Secretary of Commerce who never saw a mountain he couldn't climb, or a river he couldn't build a bridge across."

The strain of the occasion showed clearly on Mr Clinton's face. He finally broke down after the ceremony as he walked to Air Force One to fly back to Washington.

# Chirac accused of weapons deal to save French pilots

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC was embroiled in controversy yesterday after French television reported that he had sanctioned weapons sales to Bosnian Serbs to secure the release of two pilots shot down over the former Yugoslavia.

The report on the independent TFI channel, which was denied by the French authorities, claimed that Paris had paid Russia to supply arms to the forces of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic last December.

Mr Chirac has maintained there were neither negotiations nor deals with the Bosnian Serbs, who captured the airmen after their Mirage 2000 was hit over Pale during a Nato mission last August. Captain Frédéric Chiffot and

Lieutenant José Souvignat were held hostage for 103 days amid growing anxiety in France. When they were freed, Mr Chirac went out of his way to thank President Yeltsin without whom, he said, the release "would not have been possible". He said the Russian leader had helped by putting pressure on Dr Karadzic and General Mladic. But in a report for its main evening news bulletin on Saturday, TFI said that Mr Yeltsin's intervention was far more significant than President Chirac had led his compatriots to believe.

It said Jean-Charles Marchiani, an intelligence specialist who is close to President Chirac's Gaullist movement, had been involved in talks with the Bosnian Serbs, overseen by Russian agents. This led to a complex deal, with France buying weapons in Moscow and asking Russia to deliver them to Pale, the television station claimed.

The report included an interview with a man identified as Colonel Vladimir Koulich of the Russian foreign intelligence agency. He said he had been involved in the talks alongside M Marchiani. At the time of the release, there was speculation that General Mladic had demanded immunity from prosecution for war crimes.

The French Defence Ministry said: "There were neither negotiations, nor compensations, nor exchanges for the release of the pilots."

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Liberian feud sets city ablaze

Monrovia: Fighting and looting erupted in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, yesterday after the Council of State ordered the arrest of a deposed warlord on murder charges.

Rival factions exchanged fire and set buildings ablaze when fighting spread to the city centre, particularly around barracks of the former national army.

The clashes began around the home of Roosevelt Johnson, a deposed faction leader, and forced thousands of civilians to flee. Council member Charles Taylor, who launched Liberia's civil war in 1989, said on radio: "The decision now is for the police to bring Mr Johnson to justice." (Reuters)

### Iraq 'oil for food' talks to resume

New York: Talks on an "oil for food" scheme allowing Iraq to start selling crude for the first time since the Gulf War are due to resume in New York today (James Bone writes). Two rounds of talks have been held this year on the United Nations-approved proposal which would allow Iraq to sell up to \$1bn (£649 million) of oil every three months in order to raise money for food and medicines.

### Fresh search for abducted Briton

Phnom Penh: The employer of a British mine-clearing expert and his Cambodian translator, who have been taken hostage by Khmer Rouge rebels, said it might launch its own search from Thailand. Archie McCarron, the director of the Mines Advisory Group in Cambodia, said that there had been "absolutely no news" of Christopher Howes, from Bristol, and Huon Hourth. (AFP)

### Island volcano erupts again

Plymouth, Montserrat: A volcano hurled tons of ash miles into the air, preventing evacuated islanders from retrieving belongings they had abandoned in Plymouth, the capital, after an eruption on Wednesday. It was the third evacuation since the Soufriere Hills volcano became active in July, after hundreds of years of being dormant. (AP)

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# Picnic at North Pole

BY QUENTIN LETTS

ONE OF the richest women in America will next week make a day trip to the North Pole to have a picnic and to "find" herself.

Marylou Vanderbilt Whitney, a vivacious widow, has commissioned two small aircraft — one of them a fuel plane — to fly her and three companions to the Pole. They intend to alight, admire the view for an hour or so, and plant a flag.

Mrs Whitney, an acquaintance of the Prince of Wales, holds that "if you have some fears you need to conquer them", and that "money does not make you happy — it's the way you live life that is important". She hopes that the adventure will help her to "grow as a person". Mrs Whitney, who is believed to be nudging 70, has also organised the trip as a 91st birthday present to Norman Vaughan, who will be along for the ride.

Mr Vaughan is a former explorer who mushed dogs for Admiral Byrd on his trip to Antarctica in 1928. Mrs Whitney thought it would be "neat"

for him to have stood full square on both Poles, "the bottom and top of the world".

The North Pole visit in two ski-equipped Twin Otter aeroplanes will not be without danger. Mrs Whitney's assistant, Courtney Callahan, said: "We'll be landing on broken, moving ice and will spend about an hour at the Pole. It will be up to the pilots to say exactly how long we stay. They will probably be quite anxious to get going." Miss Callahan added that a picnic may be packed, perhaps with a flask of bourbon from Mrs Whitney's home state of Kentucky, although the well-preserved millionairess prefers to drink vinegar.

Mrs Whitney will wear a bright yellow and pink jacket with matching trousers over long underwear and "bunny boots", similar to those worn by Eskimos. She seems to like the cold. Last year she and Mr Vaughan looked in on Antarctica, where their party slept in igloos and ate Spam; and she cooked her forte — lemon meringue pie.



Marylou Whitney, pictured at a pet show, walking a friend's dalmatian

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.



MONDAY APRIL 8 1996  
Right tipped  
top in next  
Cabinet

# Eurocrats of cyberspace let chance to promote unity slip through the Net

The German poet Hans Magnus Enzensberger once told me that the inter-rail cards used by Europe's young backpackers had done more to integrate the continent than all the earnest work done by governments. You might think that today's equivalent of cheap, transcontinental rail tickets is the Internet.

European patriotism with flags, anthems and the paraphernalia of national politics magnified on a continental scale. However, since the present EU consists of 15 welfare and tax systems and a dozen separate languages, the stubborn survival of the nation state keeps frustrating them.



unsupervised electronic anarchy is surely the place. That's the theory; practice is different. I may have missed it (and inexperienced cybernauts like me can miss a

good deal) but a recent sample revealed little "eurobuzz" on my screen. Anybody plugging into the EU who expects the zippy, border-hopping irreverence with which MTV sets the agenda for Europe's rock fans will be sorely disappointed.

National governments and the European Commission and Parliament have lumbered into action and set up web sites. The Foreign Office dumps 7,000 documents a week into <http://www.fco.gov.uk/> and if you want to argue with Malcolm Rifkind's EU White Paper, you can e-mail the Foreign Secretary direct. However, governments are just using the Net as another way of bombarding you with facts you probably don't want to know and which are already available in other forms.

You might have thought that the European Commission wanted to upgrade its battered image. The Eurocrats have produced "Europa" (<http://www.cec.lu/>), which has beautiful flags but is otherwise a yawn. There is plenty of data, but it is not updated very often. A list of rebuttals knocking down untrue stories about the EU enlivens things a little

but is wrecked by po-faced solemnity. An entry rubbishing the myth that the EU will force every fishing boat to keep at least 200 condoms on board can't resist adding a pious sermonette on the "Europe Against Aids" campaign.

Debate on the development of the Net snap, crackle and pop elsewhere. The war of words over ineffectual attempts by the Mannheim public prosecutor to suppress Ernst Zündel, the German-Canadian apologist for the Nazis, has been conducted mainly by Americans. The French Government has been trying vainly to persuade Washington to shut down a San Diego-based Islamic group which has been putting bomb assembly instructions on the Net.

GEORGE BROCK

# Doctors call a 24-hour strike over Juppé cuts

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

DOCTORS' surgeries in France will shut down for a day this month as part of protest over the Prime Minister's plans to reduce welfare spending. Four months after civil servants brought the country to a standstill when they demonstrated against Alain Juppé's cuts, specialists and GPs are threatening to follow suit.

M Juppé is planning to fine practitioners if they overstep their annual budget, so the biggest doctors' union has taken the unusual step of calling a strike for April 24, the day the proposals are to be approved by the Cabinet. Their action is a fresh blow to the Prime Minister, who weathered December's massive protests at a severe cost to his own popularity.

In a country that spends more on its healthcare system than any other in Europe, and where patients are deeply attached to their medicines and their doctors, the controversy is likely to prove damaging to the Gaullist-led administration. The dispute comes as new figures suggest that, despite the unprecedented cuts announced by M Juppé last November, France's social security deficit will reach Fr40 billion (€5.2 billion) this year, more than double the Government's target. A rise in unemployment and a slowing down in economic activity are responsible for a failure that will set back Paris's chances of fulfilling the criteria to take part in economic and monetary union.

Chastened by the anger that followed their drive to cut Civil Service pensions at the end of last year, ministers had intended to dilute their healthcare reforms. They argue that because of the deepening deficit they have no choice but to crack down. At present patients can see as many GPs and specialists as they like, whenever they like. The more people doctors see, and the more treatments

they prescribe, the more they earn — an arrangement that scarcely encourages savings. Under M Juppé's plans, a healthcare budget would be fixed at the start of every year. If the country's 165,000 doctors overspend, the entire profession would be penalised, with their fees likely to be frozen and the possibility of collective fines. Individual doctors could also face sanctions for overspending even if, as a whole, the profession stays within its budget. People would also be encouraged to consult a GP before seeing a more costly specialist, a procedure that is far from automatic.

Claude Maffioli, president of the Confederation of French Medical Unions, which called the strike, said: "We are moving towards the English system of limiting healthcare." The MG union, which only represents GPs, was better disposed towards M Juppé's ideas. Nevertheless, it said: "The balance has swung too far towards controlling doctors."

# French hold record in pill swallowing

Paris: Encouraged by a system that has almost no constraints, the French spend more on healthcare than any other country in Europe (Adam Sage writes). They are prescribed an average of 31.2 boxes of pills a year compared to just over nine boxes in Britain and about six in Germany. Nor are the prescriptions always necessary. Studies show that about 20 per cent of medicines — about 60,000 tonnes — are thrown away by people who get better without them. For these patients, the mere act of seeing a practitioner has therapeutic value. Further research indicates that about 25,000 of France's 165,000 doctors are superfluous, a suggestion that the Government has taken on

board, since it encourages them to retire early. The French are also European record holders in the consumption of tranquillisers and anti-depressants, with a total of 42 million boxes (almost one per person) sold each year. The cost of all this is high. France spends 9.8 per cent of its national wealth on healthcare, compared to 8.6 per cent in Germany, 7.5 per cent in Sweden and 7.1 per cent in Britain. Of Western nations, only the United States spends more. Nor does the country necessarily get good value for its money. French women may live longer than anyone except the Japanese, but French men tend to die at a younger age than their foreign counterparts.



Juppé faces another damaging protest.



Norfolk teacher Lynne Symonds among her enthusiastic new subjects at her inauguration as a chief of the Mamprusi in northern Ghana

# Ghana tribe makes British woman teacher a chief

FROM SIMON WALKER IN WULUGU, NORTHERN GHANA

LYNNE SYMONDS forsook the girls in her sixth-form chemistry class at Hetherst Old Hall School near Norwich during the Easter weekend for her inauguration as a tribal African chief. After a ceremony lasting three days and nights amid the swirling dust, searing heat and incessant drumbeats, Mrs Symonds said: "I was scared stiff. It will add another dimension to my CV though, I suppose." At the climax of the rituals Mrs Symonds, the wife of

a Norfolk pig farmer and mother of two daughters aged 19 and 24, was carried shoulder high around the mud and brick village. She was rechristened "Miesim Poagnaba", which translates as "Woman Chief of Enlightenment and Education". Mrs Symonds was given a red-and-black ceremonial robe and matching hat and ornate sandals. The honour, never before given to a white person by the Mamprusi tribe of northern Ghana, was bestowed by Chief Wulugumaba, the division chief of the Kpasenkpe area. Her elevation began three years ago when she attended an education conference in

Tokyo and talked to Karimu Nachina, headmaster of the school at Wulugu. Discovering how poor the facilities there were, Mrs Symonds set about forging links between the school and her own, sending books and raising money to build a boarding house for the 100 girls who are often abused by villagers with whom they are forced to lodge. The unexpected reward in recognition of her educational work is her honorary title as third in command of the Mamprusi tribe of 3,000 people living in 13 villages. It confers upon her, in theory at least, the power of life

and death over her subjects, but in practice she will hand out advice mainly on educational matters. She is spending 12 days in Ghana before returning to the chemistry laboratory and hockey pitch at Hetherst, and expects to visit her tribe twice a year. "I think I'm just numb," Mrs Symonds said after the ceremony attended by Roger, her husband. "I didn't realise it would be as amazing as it was. It's very different from seeing it on David Attenborough than actually doing it for real."

Leading article, page 15

# Bomb warning in Israel as Easter message urges religious tolerance

## Pope pleads for an end to persecution of Christians

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope yesterday hit out at the intransigence of "followers of other religions" who were persecuting Christians, an apparent reference to Islamic fundamentalism. In his Easter message *Urbi et Orbi*, he said that Christians in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe had "legitimate aspirations" to employment, housing, social justice and religious freedom which were being "hindered" by other faiths. The Pope recently condemned Islamic persecution of Christians in Sudan, and is due to travel to Tunisia next weekend to plead for Islamic tolerance and Islamic-Christian dialogue. He also spoke out against the growing power of Protestant sects during his gruelling tour of Central America last month. Yesterday the Pope praised those who "at the cost of great sacrifice" were pursuing peace in Bosnia, Ireland and "particularly the Holy Land". Hopes for peace in the Middle East were still jeopardised by "recourse to force and violence". He asked Christ to "comfort those who reject the inevitability of ethnic rivalries in Burun-

di and Rwanda" and "alleviate the sufferings of those subjected to violence of arms in the Caucasus, Afghanistan, Algeria, Sudan and other regions. The Pope, 75, looked tired but spoke strongly during yesterday's Easter ceremony on a packed and sunlit St Peter's Square, carpeted with flowers from The Netherlands. Dressed in white and gold robes and a gold mitre, he wished viewers around the world a happy Easter in 57 languages, to applause and shouts of encouragement. The Pope had appeared unsteady on Good Friday while following the Stations of the Cross at the Colosseum and volunteers from Rwanda and Bosnia helped him to carry the cross. The Vatican denied the fact that the Pope's left hand shook repeatedly yesterday meant that he had Parkinson's disease, or that recent bouts of illness — officially ascribed to flu and "digestive disorders" — were due to cancer of the colon. Vatican officials said the Pope was determined to maintain a rigorous programme of foreign travel.



The Pope waves to the faithful who came to hear his Easter message in St Peter's Square yesterday

## Palestinians barred from Jerusalem sites

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EASTER Day celebrations in the Holy City where Jesus was crucified were marred by the threat of more Islamic suicide attacks and harsh Israeli security measures which stopped thousands of Palestinian Christians from visiting holy sites. The threat of more suicide bombs issued by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, also kept away many foreign pilgrims, some of whom found that tour operators were unable to provide travel insurance for Israel. In Saint George's Cathedral in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, Samir Kafity, the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, denounced the five-week closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, imposed after Palestinian suicide bombers killed more than 60 people in nine days. Some would-be

Palestinian pilgrims who were unable to reach the site of Jesus's crucifixion at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in the heart of the Old City, went to Bethlehem, the newly autonomous West Bank town. On Saturday, about 1,000 Palestinians, Israeli peace campaigners and European tourists held a march in Bethlehem's Manger Square to protest at the closure, which most Palestinian Authority officials expect to last at least until the Israeli general election at the end of next month. Despite a diplomatic intervention from France, the Israelis refused to make any exception for Arab pilgrims wanting to attend the Easter festivities, claiming to have received reliable intelligence that more suicide bombs were being planned by militants opposed to the peace process.

# Polisario rebels threaten to resume war against Morocco

FROM MARK HUBAND IN RABOULI, SOUTHERN ALGERIA



ALGERIAN-BACKED fighters battling Morocco for control of the disputed territory of Western Sahara have threatened a return to desert war after a five-year ceasefire if a planned referendum on the future of the mineral-rich territory is not held. The leader of the Polisario Front's war against the Moroccan occupation of the territory insisted that, if a United Nations-sponsored referendum allow-

ing the self-determination of the native Sahrawi people is to go ahead, substantial evidence of Moroccan manipulation of the voter-registration process must first be addressed. The UN's already extended mandate expires on May 31 and is unlikely to be renewed. Mohammed Abdelaziz, leader of the front and President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic — a state without a country, recognised by 70 nations — said in an interview at his headquarters in Rabouli, south of the isolated Algerian town of Tindouf, that

he would accept the appointment of an independent mediator to establish a dialogue between Polisario and the Moroccan Government to avert a crisis which threatens regional stability. "We are not looking for war, and we are concerned about finding a way of saving the [UN] settlement plan. But if war is imposed on us we will fight. We are seeking the appointment of an independent mediator, but not somebody from either the Organisation of African Unity or the UN. Somebody who can open dialogue." His call is

fraught with danger. Morocco has never officially recognised the Polisario Front as a legitimate opponent, rather as a rebel force backed by its main regional rival and claiming a territory which King Hassan views as part of Morocco. The Polisario Front has repeatedly accused the UN of favouring Moroccan interests, failing to investigate accusations of bias in the voter-registration process and allowing Morocco to intimidate and imprison those calling for a fair vote.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



Playing with stainless steel: the intriguing work of the sculptor Alison Wilding goes on show in London



Verdi's first great success, Nabucco, returns to Covent Garden for the first time in two decades



Josie Lawrence stars as the RSC brings its production of The Taming of the Shrew to the Barbican



Broadway star Mandy Patinkin makes his British stage debut performing show tunes at the Almeida

LONDON ELVIS: Revival of the 20-year-old tribute show... TODAY'S CHOICE: A daily guide to arts and entertainment... ELSEWHERE: FLYBYNIGHT: David Storey's lusty play...

THEATRE GUIDE: Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London... AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production...

LONDON GALLERIES: Barbara Hepworth: Creator of the British modernist... CINEMA GUIDE: Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London...

LONG RUNNERS: Blood Brothers: Phenomenon (0171-637 1044)... THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Jeremy Kingston's assessment...

NEW RELEASES: MADIA: Adventures of Quetzal... NORTH BY NORTHWEST (PG): Cary Grant is mistaken for a non-existent spy...

An unlikely survivor

When Lou Reed last performed in the capital four years ago it was a very serious business indeed. Noise from the audience was strictly prohibited...



As his Shepherds Bush gig proved, Lou Reed still has his finger on the rock'n'roll pulse

In recent times, Reed's poetic flair as a lyricist has made him more than a match for Bob Dylan. But Reed also likes to play loud, loosely-scripted rock'n'roll...

Hope of the brave

AS HE left, shortly before the end of Freddie Hubbard's first gig in over a year, a sympathetic audience member handed in a brief note...

Mulling it over

IF THOSE unfashionable hit-makers Status Quo are persona non grata at Radio 1, they can always console themselves with the thought that the Café Royal seems to be turning into a retirement home for ageing rockers...

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Light Blue victory puts dark cloud over Oxford



**FOOTBALL**

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Newcastle challenge hangs on wing and a prayer



**RUGBY**

**29**


Queen Mother returns for Irish conquest



**SPORTS FOR ALL**

**30**

Taking to the air in a leap of faith



# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 8 1996



Hill, the eventual winner, leads Schumacher, Alesi, Berger and the rest of the Formula One field through the opening lap of the Argentine Grand Prix in Buenos Aires. Photograph: Eduardo di Baia

Flawless drive leaves English challenger 18 points clear of field

## Hill enjoys view from summit

**FROM OLIVER HOIT IN BUENOS AIRES**

**TROUBLE** stuck to him like glue last season, but this year problems are flowing around Damon Hill and moulding him into a smooth stone. If there were bumps and jolts on the uneven circuit here yesterday, he seemed to glide over them; if many of his principle rivals were ravaged by car sickness, he and his haughty Williams-Renault were jauntily immune. Nothing, it seems, is impeding his sprint towards his first Formula One drivers' world championship.

Hill made it three grand prix wins out of three this season here at this track on the northern outskirts of the city, sailing home a country mile ahead of his team-mate and closest challenger, Jacques Villeneuve, of Canada. After a metronomically effective race with no alarms, the Englishman is now 18 points out in front in the race for the 1996 world title.

He led from start to finish and ended, coasting more than 12sec ahead of Villeneuve, who is being eased into the role of subservient team-mate in the face of Hill's mastery. In only his fourth season, Hill has now won 16 grands prix, the same number as Stirling Moss, and is closing on Nigel Mansell's record of five successive wins at the start of the 1992 season.

Hill was relentless, his Williams-Renault a class above the rest of the field in terms of both performance and reliability. As he pressed on and on, keeping a steady gap between himself and his pursuers throughout, the rest of the field simply fell away, as if in a thrall to him.

Michael Schumacher, initially his closest challenger, was forced to retire after he lost part of his rear wing. He said it had been damaged when part of Hill's car flew off and he had to duck to avoid it. The pursuer's mantle was taken up, briefly, by Jean Alesi, in his Benetton-Renault, but his challenge was ruined when he stalled his car at his second pit-stop. His team-mate, Gerhard Berger, also ran second for a while, but he, too, was forced out of the race with mechanical problems.

Hill was unflappable. Even when the lead he had established early on was wiped out because a spectacular crash brought the safety car out and bunched up the field, he eased away effortlessly again. "It is a great day and a fantastic result," Hill said. "It is difficult

to imagine it getting any better than this. The result represents the force that we have at the team and I am very, very happy."

Hill had made the perfect start from the thirteenth pole position of his career, a beginning that was a match for the near-flawless, controlled driving he had produced all weekend. As Villeneuve was engulfed by a sea of advancing rivals, slipping back to ninth by the end of the first lap, Hill hurled away from the front of the grid and left Schumacher trailing in his wake.

But the German had driven heroically all weekend, pushing himself and his car to its limits to fashion a lap-time so fast that he started alongside Hill on the front row. He had forced his equipment to the edge of its capabilities so that its nose cone twitched continually as he teetered on the brink of losing control.

For the first ten laps, everyone was transported back to the Hill-Schumacher duels of last season. After Hill had eked out a gap of 0.8sec in the first two laps, the world champion, who is having to dig deeper into the reserves of his ability than ever before as he rages against being consigned to a season as an also-ran, clawed his way back.

He set the fastest time on the sixth lap and brought himself to within half a second of Hill. He almost attempted a dive inside his rival on two or three occasions, but thought better of it. Schumacher stayed with Hill as long as he could but then, inexorably, Hill started to pull away. By the end of the seventeenth lap, the Englishman was more than 4sec ahead.

The leading positions remained the same after the front-runners made their first round of pit-stops soon afterwards. But then a race which was threatening to become routine exploded into action with a series of accidents.

First, the Forti-Ford of Luca Badoer spun into a gravel trap on the 27th lap and flipped over on to its front. Badoer crawled out unhurt, but his car was left stranded in a dangerous position and the race organisers sent the safety car out on to the track to slow the rest of the field down.

That reduced Hill's lead to a car-length, but while the drivers were dawdling round, the engine on the Ligier Mugen Honda of Pedro Diniz blew up and burst into flames. Diniz spun into the gravel, as burning fuel sloshed around him, and leapt out of the car, also unhurt.

When the safety car was pulled off the track on the 31st lap, Hill pulled away from Schumacher again. By the end of the 38th lap, he was nearly

3sec ahead of the German, who was coming under increasing pressure from Alesi. Two laps later, Schumacher pulled into the pits for his second stop, leaving Hill with a 4sec lead over Alesi. Alesi then ruined his chances of mounting a sustained challenge for victory when he stalled his Benetton-Renault in the pit-lane on his own second stop, losing 12sec in the process.

Hill was clear in the lead now, his rivals melting away behind him as they seem to have done so far this season. On the 46th lap, it got even better. Alesi caught and passed Schumacher for eighth place, then Barrichello passed him, too. At the end of the lap, clearly in trouble, the world champion pulled back into the pits and retired. He has managed only four points from his first three races.

When Hill emerged from his second pit stop on the fiftieth lap, he had extended his lead over his nearest challenger, Berger, to more than 13sec. Seven laps later, the Austrian's race was curtailed by mechanical problems, too. It was as though any car that dared to get too close to Hill was struck with a curse.

By now, Villeneuve, who was also on the two-stop strategy shared only by Hill, had moved into second place by default, comfortably ahead of Alesi, while Rubens Barrichello, who so narrowly missed out on third place in Brazil, had moved up to fourth at the end of the 62nd lap, a fitting reward for his perseverance.



Schumacher was forced to retire after 46 laps

**DETAILS FROM BUENOS AIRES**

**RESULT:** 1, D Hill (GB), Williams-Renault 1hr 54min 55.322sec

2, J Villeneuve (Can), Williams-Renault, at 12.167sec

3, J Alesi (Fr), Benetton-Renault 14.754

4, R Barrichello (Br), Jordan-Peugeot 55.131

5, E Irvine (Ire), Ferrari, 1:04.991

6, J Verstappen (Hol), Footwork-Hart, 1:08.913

7, O Coulthard (GB), McLaren-Mercedes, 1:13.400

8, O Panoz (Fr), Ligier-Mugen Honda 1:14.295

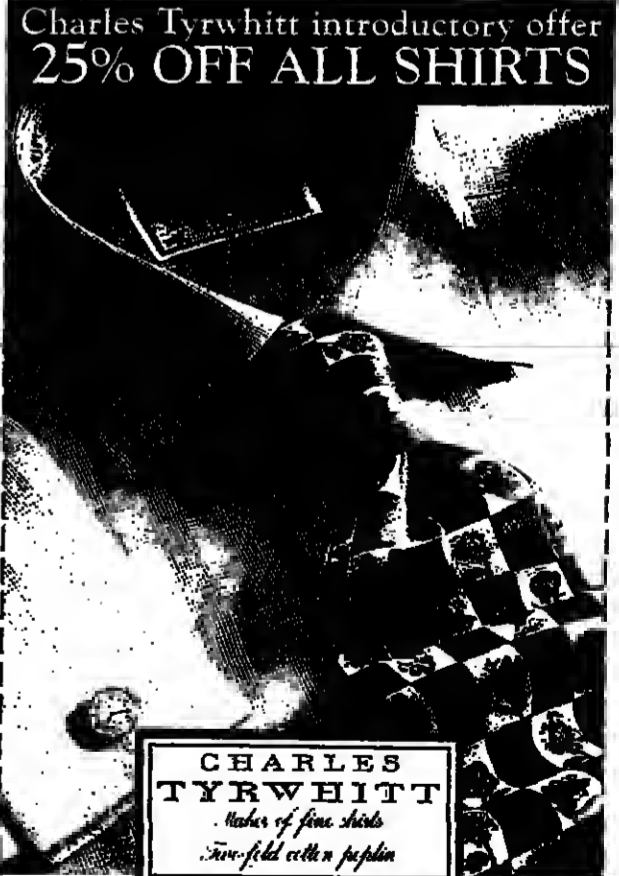
9, J Herbert (GB), Sauber-Ford V10, at one lap

10, A Montmerle (It), Forti-Ford V6i three laps

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS:** Drivers: 1, Hill 30pts; 2, Villeneuve 12; 3, Alesi 10; 4, Irvine 6; 5, Hakkinen 5; 6, Schumacher 4; equal 7, Berger, Sato, Barrichello 3; equal 9, Panoz and Verstappen 1. Constructors: 1, Williams-Renault 42; 2, Benetton-Renault 13; 3, Ferrari 10; 4, McLaren-Mercedes 5; equal 5, Tyrrell-Yamaha and Jordan-Peugeot 3; 6, Ugiel-Mugen Honda 1.

**REMAINING GRANDS PRIX:** Apr 28: European, Nurburgring, Germany; May 5: San Marino, Imola; May 19: Spanish, Barcelona; June 2: Monaco, Monte Carlo; June 15: Canadian, Montreal; June 30: French, Magny Cours; July 14: British, Silverstone; July 28: German, Hockenheim; Aug 11: Hungarian, Budapest; Aug 25: Belgian, Spa-Francorchamps; Sept 8: Italian, Monza; Sept 22: Portuguese, Estoril; Oct 13: Japanese, Suzuka.

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# Davies excels at messing about on the river

Someone had clearly lavished a lot of care in making it, but they had laboured in vain. "We love your tache, Des," proclaimed the home-made banner lying from the roof of the Putney block of flats and I'm sure Des Lynam was very grateful, but sadly — at least for its creator — it was Steve Rider's turn to do Grandstand. Lynam, you see, does the Grand National. Rider does the Boat Race. Worth remembering for next year, perhaps.

Last year, Rider bravely presented the programme from the Putney embankment, where he was almost lost in a unruly sea of beer mugs and college sweatshirts. This year, someone had sensibly put him on a boat-house balcony. Here the only real problem he had to contend with was being



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

not to have been thumped by Britain's greatest competing Olympian.

One of Rider's earlier guests was Chris Ballieu, Cambridge Blue, international oarsman and now BBC commentator, who dutifully said what he seems to say every year: "We really could be seeing a great race today, perhaps the best for many years." Sadly, the best race we saw on Saturday was a re-run of the 1980 Boat Race, provider of one of the closest finishes in Boat Race

history and the last to be commented on by the late John Snagge, Oxford held on to win by a canvas, but you would scarcely have known that by Snagge's wonderfully understated commentary. "This is an absolutely cracking race," marked the high-point of excitement.

Snagge, who died a fortnight ago, was a Boat Race institution. His current successor, Barry Davies, would like to become one and, just possibly, might. Davies, as we

know, is a *homme sérieux*, unswerving in his devotion to the appropriate literary quote (he managed Wordsworth at both the start and finish of the race). It is a style that can grate, but it is perfect for the Boat Race, a preposterously old-fashioned event that somehow still flourishes as a national institution.

Anyone can read an oarsman's height and weight of the programme's notes, but it takes the meticulously prepared Davies to tell us their histories, hobbies and engaging eccentricities. A competitor had only to mention that his father/grandfather had rowed in the race and the appropriate black and white clip would be wheeled out. It was all very impressive.

The one risk that Davies

does run, though, is that of becoming an insider. It is only a year since his son, Mark, coxed Goldie to victory and his commentary still occasionally carries the stamp of the proud father, anxious to share his new-found technical knowledge with fellow men of the river rather than explain it to those who think a stretcher is something you use to carry off injured footballers.

This rather alienating air of mutual admiration was at its height during the one-sided reserve race, but for the race proper, Davies and team were back at their best helped by some quite superb pictures of the exciting first half of the race provided by the on-board, remote control cameras. It may not have been Liverpool versus Newcastle but it had definitely been the Boat Race.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### McRae struggles in Makinen's wake

COLIN McRAE will want to put the Safari Rally, which finished in Kenya yesterday, behind him as quickly as possible. The Scottish world rally champion, plagued by suspension problems with his Subaru Impreza, struggled throughout the race, including a collision with a 12-year-old throughout on Saturday, and after finishing in fourth place, complained: "It's not very enjoyable fighting for world championship points in conditions like this. There's too much down to luck here."

The race was won by Tommi Makinen, of Finland, in a Mitsubishi, his second win of the series extending his world championship lead. Although Makinen had not been expected to win on his first attempt at the championship's roughest and fastest rally, he pulled away from Kenneth Eriksson, of Sweden, on the last of the three days, surviving a tyre blow-out and a flash flood to beat Eriksson in his Subaru.

### Tide turns for Marines

CANOEING: Mark Phillips and Richard Lewis snatched victory from Philippe Houettekiet and Bod Dewitter, of Belgium, on the final tidal stages of the Devizes to Westminster race yesterday. Leaving late on Friday afternoon and last of the 130 crews attempting the non-stop doubles race, Phillips and Lewis were placed fourth during the early stages, but, by Newbury, 35 miles into the race, had secured second place.

Houettekiet and Dewitter had established an early lead of 12 minutes, but, by Teddington, this had been cut to six and, as the crews passed under Westminster Bridge, Phillips and Lewis, of the Royal Marines, had taken the lead and established a two-minute margin. This was Phillip's third victory in succession, paddling with Lewis in 1994 and Tony Alan-Williams in 1995.

### Doohan riding high

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan, of Australia, right, the world 500cc champion, recovered from his disappointing start to the season by winning the Indonesian Grand Prix yesterday. Doohan, riding a Honda, finished fifth in the Malaysian Grand Prix, the opening race of the championship, last weekend, but made no mistake in Sentul, beating Alexandre Barros, of Brazil, by over 3sec.



### Prean shows promise

TABLE TENNIS: Carl Prean, the former English national champion, who has had his worst season since becoming an international player, did enough to suggest that he still has a considerable future in the game despite a defeat by Wang Tao, of China, in the last-16 stage of the English Open at Kettering yesterday. Prean, who has suffered from injury and loss of form in recent months, was a convincing winner against Allan Bensten, a Danish international, on Saturday, before going out 21-12, 21-14, 21-14 to Wang, the world No 3.

### Wolstenholme wins

GOLF: Gary Wolstenholme, a member of the Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup team that beat the United States last September, made a good start to the season when he won the prestigious Duncan Putter open tournament for the second time in three years at Southendwood yesterday. A 72-hole total of 291 gave Wolstenholme, a Bristol and Clifton golfer, a three-stroke victory over Matthew Ellis, the Wales International, from Wrexham, who, in turn, was three strokes in front of Mark Smith, another Welshman.

### Lovatt breaks through

CYCLING: Mark Lovatt, usually cast in the role of a support rider with the powerful Optimum Performance squad, won the 34-mile third stage of the Girvan three-day race yesterday, with a finishing sprint that defeated David Williams, the 1994 national champion, and Kevin Dawson, his team-mate. It was a demanding day's racing, with three big climbs that tested the riders' strength. Williams starts the hilly 65-mile final run today as overall leader by 37sec from Lovatt.

### Paulus springs surprise

TENNIS: Barbara Paulus, of Austria, right, beat Conchita Martinez, of Spain, the world No 2 and defending title-holder, 7-6, 6-4 to reach the final of the WTA Family Circle Cup at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, yesterday. Paulus was due to meet Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, of Spain — who beat Jana Novotna, of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-2 in the last four — in the final.



### Real reach crisis point

FOOTBALL: Real Madrid, six times the winners of the European Cup, are facing the prospect of exclusion from European competition for only the second time in their history. Real lost 1-0 at home to struggling Sporting Gijón yesterday, leaving them in seventh place in the Spanish league, four points away from a Uefa Cup qualifying position, with just seven games remaining. Real announced yesterday that they will decline any invitation to play in the Intertoto Cup this summer.

# Montgomery and Woosnam aim for rousing finish

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MARIETTA, GEORGIA

COLIN MONTGOMERIE and Ian Woosnam had little chance of catching David Duval, the leader, when the fourth round of the BellSouth Classic got under way at the Atlanta Country Club yesterday, but they were grateful for the chance to hone their games further in a competitive situation before driving to Augusta for this week's Masters. After their third rounds of 68, Montgomery and Woosnam were on 215, one under par, nine strokes behind.

ready for it, but I wasn't." Tolles is one of the finds of the season. With his dark eyes and short hair, there is an intense, burning look about him. Last year, he was 116th on the money-list; last week, he jumped to third.

As Montgomery has played only 11 rounds so far this year and Woosnam only 27, neither is what you would call "over-golfed" and further putting practice on greens very similar

Golf scores ..... 31

to Augusta's was just what the doctor ordered.

"Going early to Augusta and practising there is all very well," Sam Torrance had said on Friday, as he waited to see whether his 36-hole total of 146 would be good enough to beat the cut, "but it's better to be playing competitive golf on a good course."

Torrance, who comfortably made the cut, scored a 74 in his third round and added a fourth round of 70 that enabled him to set off for Augusta with a smile on his face, but some of the other foreign players had hardly set the course alight. Severiano

### Sorenstam shares lead

ANNIKA SORENSTAM, the Swede, made two costly visits to the rough but held on to shoot a one-over-par 73 and share the lead after the third round of the Twelve Bridges LPGA Classic in Lincoln, California.

second shot hit a tree and her third found deep rough off the green. She chipped to ten feet but missed a bogey putt, dropping to six under for the tournament. Sorenstam had more trouble on the par-five 17th when her approach missed the green. She finished with four birdies, three bogeys and a double bogey.

Mucha and Schreyer each took a bogey and a double bogey. Mucha had five birdies in her round of 69 and Schreyer had an eagle and three birdies in shooting rounds of 68.

# Martin retains her crown after outstanding final

By COLIN McQUILLAN



Jansher: sent sprawling

MICHELLE MARTIN took her fourth successive British Open squash title at the Cardiff International Arena last night, defeating Sarah FitzGerald, her Australian compatriot, 1-0, 9-5, 9-1, 9-7 in a 46-minute match that was widely regarded one of the best in the 75-year history of the event.

Martin, the No 1 seed, had to survive a determined fightback from 8-3 to 8-7 by FitzGerald, the No 2 seed, in the fourth game, but then clinched the title with a penalty stroke in the fourth end.

In that counter-attack, FitzGerald produced the same level of fierce driving and tenacious retrieving that took her to a 9-1 completion of the opening game in just five minutes. At

the end of that game, Martin was making repeated forehead errors to the tin, but, in the second, she took immediate control of the court to lead 4-0.

It was obvious then that the two Australians, who have dominated the women's circuit in recent times, were about to present the Cardiff crowd with one of their great encounters. Three early penalty strokes against FitzGerald helped Martin, the defending champion, to take a 7-1 lead in the second game. A penalty stroke less well judged by William Winter, the referee, and a no-let decision at game ball ended FitzGerald's hopes.

The third game produced nine minutes of competitive rallying which Martin, rather surprisingly, won 9-1. Martin led 8-3 in the fourth and it

looked all over, but FitzGerald had other ideas, dragging herself back point by point to 3-7.

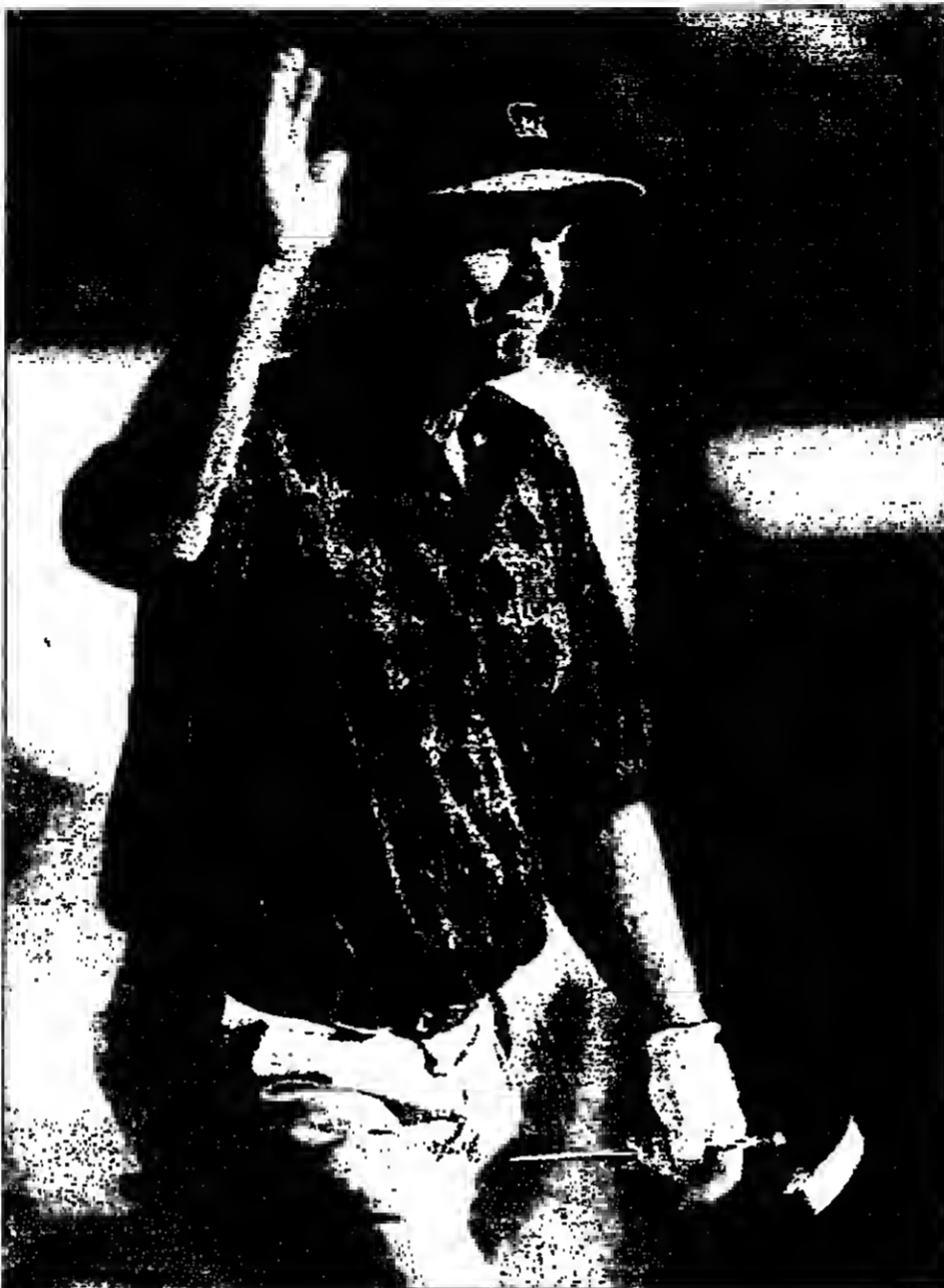
She survived five match-balls, broke her racket on the floor in frustration after missing a backhand boast that she knew she should have volleyed and finally lost the chance of a fifth game when Winter favoured the champion with a penalty stroke, the delay on which arguably deserved only a let.

Early enterprise featured in both men's semi-finals on Saturday, with Julien Bonatet and Brett Martin each stealing the opening games before falling to the top seeds, Jansher Khan and Rodney Eyles, respectively.

Bonatet, the world No 18, had become the first French semi-finalist in the event with a brilliant performance against Paul Johnson in the quarter-

finals. He staggered the defending champion by finishing the first game with a disguised forehand short boast that had the normally secure Pakistani sprawling, and surprised him again with a dangerous counter-attack from 12-4 to 12-9 in a single hand of the second, before subsiding 12-15, 15-9, 15-9, 15-6 in 58 minutes.

Martin, the elder brother of the women's champion, finished his first game with a backhand cross-court rick of extraordinary power and accuracy, but was increasingly inhibited from 7-7 in the second game by a leg problem, stemming from an ankle weakened by a collision with Del Harris in the PSA Super Series final two weeks ago. Eyles reached his first British Open final in 41 minutes, 13-15, 15-12, 15-3, 15-9.



Nicklaus, whose 65 included an albatross, acknowledges applause at the 18th

### Nicklaus scores two at par five

HALE IRWIN responded to Jack Nicklaus's first albatross for 31 years with a seven-under par 65 to take a one-stroke lead into the final round of The Tradition in Scottsdale, Arizona, yesterday.

Irwin, recovering from a 76 in the second round when erratic winds forced all but a handful of players over par, matched his opening round to post a three-round total of 206, ten under par. "I guess there was a little act of redemption on my part to make sure that the 76 was a fluke and the 65 on Thursday wasn't," Irwin,

the 1995 Senior PGA Tour's rookie of the year, said.

Nicklaus, the defending champion, also shot a 65. After finishing first and sixth in two previous Senior Tour events this year, he came out of the pack with a remarkable run over the closing nine holes.

Four-under at the turn, he birdied the 11th, then gobbled up Irwin's lead with two monstrous shots on the 12th hole of the Cochise Course, one of four Nicklaus has designed at Desert Mountain.

His 340-yard drive on the short par five left him 159

yards to the flag. He pulled out an eight-iron and landed the ball on the front of the green, from where it rolled into the hole.

It was his third albatross — or double eagle as the Americans term it. The first came while he was a teenager while the second was at the Jacksonville Open in 1965.

Nicklaus two-punned from 16 feet on the last hole for his fifth birdie.

Raymond Floyd, who won this title in 1994, started the final round a shot behind J. C. Snead, who was third on 208.

# Bond holds nerve to take final step

By PHIL YATES

NIGEL BOND, successful in only one match at his previous six snooker tournaments of 1996, continued to erase the memory of that abysmal run by beating David Harold 6-5 to reach the final of the British Open in Plymouth yesterday.

Bond, a laconic 30-year-old from Darley Dale, edged Stephen Hendry 5-4 in the last 16 by holding himself together in a tense deciding frame and it was that quality that enabled him to emerge victorious from an error-strewn contest with Harold.

Such a result seemed a million miles away when Bond, the world No 12, arrived

in the West Country devoid of confidence after first-round eliminations from the Regal Welsh Open, European Open and Thailand Open in recent weeks.

Yet, while Bond readily admits he is still no prone to unforced errors, last year's Embassy world championship runner-up was proud of the manner in which he handled the pressure for a deciding frame finish.

Bond, fortunate to win the opener on the pink after fluking the blue to a baulk pocket off three cushions, led 4-3 thanks to a 62 break in the seventh frame, but Harold moved within sight of a place in today's final against Ronnie

O'Sullivan or John Higgins by dominating the next two.

Producing his best when it mattered most, Bond easily accounted for the tenth frame before pouncing on a misjudged safety from Harold in the eleventh with a decisive run of 72.

Bond has lost on his three prior appearances in the final of a world ranking event and, once again, he will be the underdog against O'Sullivan, the 1994 British Open champion, or Higgins, the title-holder.

Higgins showed his unflappable temperament on Saturday during a 5-3 quarter-final win over John Parrott. Having watched the Liverpoolian

score 226 unanswered points at the start of the match — including a 139 total clearance — Higgins was entitled to be indignant. However, the Scot rallied with an 82 clearance in the third, took the fourth frame with an 84 break and never surrendered the momentum.

O'Sullivan's challenge was in danger of ending when he had to have a new tip applied to his cue during the mid-session interval of his quarter-final against Mark Williams. Adjusting quickly, O'Sullivan led 4-3 with a 71 clearance from 5-40 in arrears in the seventh frame before sinking a 61 break in the eighth to seal a 5-3 success.

	Depth (cm)		Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
	L	U				
AUSTRIA						
Oberurgl	20	80	fair heavy	slush	line	9 4/4
St Anton	35	240	fair	heavy (Best skiing first thing, heavy by midday)	line	12 3/4
FRANCE						
Alpe d'Huez	60	300	good	heavy slush	sun	5 1/4
Avoriaz	110	120	good	heavy	fair (All 42 lifts open, all upper runs remain good)	3 1/4
Chamonix	30	240	good	varied	closed (North facing slopes above mid-station best)	6 2/4
Tignes	105	190	good	heavy	fair	3 3/4
Val Thorens	50	200	good	varied	fair (Great skiing on all but lowest runs)	1 3/4
SWITZERLAND						
Arosa	50	50	fair	varied	slush	line 2 4/4
C Montana	0	210	fair	spring	closed	line 2 3/4
Verbier	15	170	good	varied	fair (Good skiing in morning above 2,300m, slushy pm)	line 1 4/4

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

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David Miller forecasts testing times as Oxford grapple with inferiority complex

Story of Light Blue dominance set to run and run

Oxford University oarsmen may be eagerly awaiting the autumn release of True Blue, the feature-film recreation of the 1987 Boat Race triumph over crew multi-

Cambridge's technical superiority in Saturday's 24-length victory, in the second-fastest time ever, was magnified by Goldie's crushing defeat of Isis in record time in the reserve boat contest that preceded the main event sponsored for the tenth year by Beefeater Gin.

The technical mastery shown by Cambridge in both races threatens a period of dominance as long as Oxford's 16 victories in 17 years, under the guidance of Dan Topolski from 1976 to 1992. But Topolski, who returned as Oxford coach last year in an attempt to halt the decline, lost more than a race on Saturday; he lost a theoretical argument.

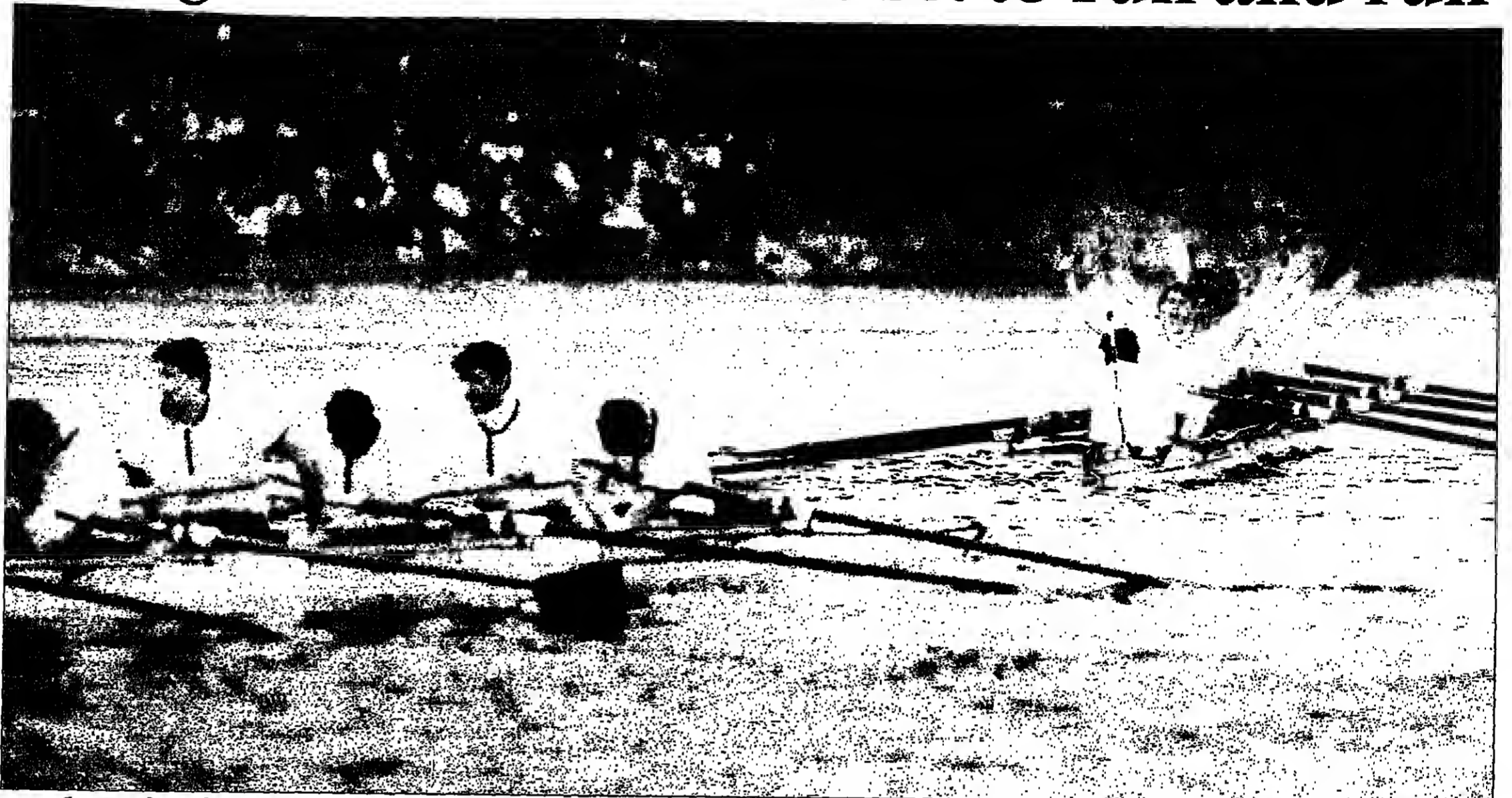
From the layman's viewpoint, it would be an only slightly harsh analogy to say that while Oxford's boat resembled a line of navvies digging a ditch, Cambridge had the unified rhythm of the first violins in a symphony orchestra. Topolski and his fellow coach, Penny Chuter, know that they will struggle to reverse this superiority.

The story of the race was painted on the faces of the respective strokes. Adam Frost, at 21 years five months the youngest of these men encountering unprecedented pressure, was a sustained picture of heroic agony. James Ball, a month older, was composed from the first, critical, half-dozen strokes and conducted a continual tactical conversation with Kevin Whyman, the Cambridge cox.

"We'd caught glimpses of Oxford in training," Ball said, "and were confident the emphasis on our [blade] finish was the faster. We were intent on being relaxed and loose, not to let rip till Barnes. If you're in top gear too early, you've nowhere further to go."

The irony within Oxford's agony was that they were possibly the stronger crew, but because of a slightly inferior catch — blade entry — and a tucked position over the oar handle on their finish, did not transfer that power from water to boat.

"If I felt the catch was going soft," Ball recalled, "I'd tell Kevin and he'd call the crew on the next few strokes. We were trying to retain a rhythm



So near and yet so far: Oxford suffer the agony of defeat as Cambridge celebrate another crushing victory in the 142nd Boat Race on The Tideway on Saturday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

so that the back of the boat doesn't jerk, being 'kind to the boat' as they say. Up to Hammersmith, Oxford kept putting in tens [surges of ten strokes], and I'd communicate to the cox, so that we could retaliate, letting him know their [tide] position."

The unique single-rival intensity of the Boat Race is so legendary that Cambridge revel in the present dominance as gleefully as did Oxford in recent years past. The Goldie cheers in the press tent at the finish as the Blue boat forged ahead were deafening.

This introspection tends to make the defeated side blind to realities. Some Oxford experts are reasoning that their boat failed to find training form, rather than concede the evidence of Cambridge's present technical advantage.

Chuter does concede. "The key was the continuity of five Cambridge men from previous Goldie boats," she said.

"Our performance was gutsy, but the rhythm came and went." Sheer physical thuggery is no longer enough. "We're rowing the way contemporary international crews do," Richard Phelps, last year's winning Cambridge president, said. "This was a competition between coaches. Robin Wil-

liams has achieved the same advanced technique as New Zealand and others, always moving the boat. "These Cambridge men are not very old, they have no managers or agents, the pressures are immense and to come out and row like that was fantastic."

Oxford now have some hard thinking to do. No oarsman deciding which university to attend is going to want the

same experience as Robert Clegg, the Oxford president, who experienced his third defeat in a row, Oxford once exploited the arrival of prominent foreign oarsmen because they were already the established winning university. Life has revolved.

Whyman survived the duel of intimidation between coxes down Fulham Reach and into Crabtree Reach at Harrods Wharf, as the stream advantage shifts from Middlesex to Surrey. Five times Todd Kristol, the diminutive American steering Oxford, was warned by the umpire, but as Alan Inns, Cambridge's coxing advisor said: "That's the nature of the race and part of the pressure. Both coxes were doing what they had to, never mind the warnings."

Whyman held his line into the Hammersmith bend and no amount of tens from Oxford could dent the Cambridge morale thereafter.

Key may be reserves of strength

By Mike Rosewell, Rowing Correspondent

CAMBRIDGE'S victory in 16min 58sec puts them into the record books as the equal second-fastest Boat Race crew, behind the Oxford eight that recorded 16min 45sec in 1984.

After an overlapping battle for the first five minutes, during which the umpire, Mike Sweeney, was nearly as active with his flags as the crews were with their blades, Cambridge, who had won the toss and chosen Surrey, put in a push from Harrods to Hammersmith, which eased them into a crucial lead of two thirds of a length at the bridge.

Oxford hung on with Adam Frost, their young stroke, driving them along Chiswick

Eyot so bravely that the deficit was still only just over a length at Chiswick Steps.

The "just over" was vital, though, and gave Kevin Whyman, Cambridge's cox, the steering flexibility to keep the race won, although an indication of the pressure Oxford were under came from Cambridge's four intermediate records: the mile to Barnes Bridge (10min 17sec), Hammersmith Bridge to Barnes Bridge (7min 20sec), Chiswick Steps to Barnes Bridge (3min 25sec) and Chiswick Steps to the finish (6min 29sec).

As Cambridge celebrated and Oxford slumped under Chiswick Bridge, Sweeney shouted: "Well rowed, Cambridge. Very well rowed, Oxford." This was the difference: Cambridge hit a rhythm, even

as early as the second minute, and Oxford did not.

Penny Chuter, Oxford's chief coach, who handed the reins to Dan Topolski for the last two weeks, summed it up. "You cannot perform for 17 minutes as individuals," she said. "We did not find the cohesive and relaxed rhythm which we have had."

Both Chuter and Topolski are now two years into their contract with Oxford. Robin Williams, clearly happier, has also had two years with Cambridge and his cup runneth over. Williams is a perfectionist and smiled on Saturday when he heard "you have got to be happy with that," his squad's catchphrase after outings when they think that they have gone well and he is not so sure.

His two Boat Race wins

have been more than matched by his Goldie crews, winners over Isis by 14 lengths in 1995 and 11 lengths on Saturday. Goldie set a record of 17min 2sec, only four seconds behind the Blue boat and three seconds faster than Oxford, although direct comparisons are affected by time and tide differences. Of three intermediate records which they took, one, from Chiswick Steps to the finish, now stands faster than the Boat Race record.

The success of the Cambridge system is perhaps due as much to bringing on the reserves as to the two controversial rowing bursaries offered annually. On Saturday, five of the Cambridge crew had emerged from previous Goldie combinations: no one in the Oxford line-up had been blooded in Isis.

struggles in... wake

Monday April 8 1996

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Magic of the Maracaña proves out of this world

Oliver Holt joins the football pilgrims at one of the greatest sporting theatres

It started badly, stuck on a bus full of football tourists in the middle of the traffic jam from hell. Half an hour passed, crawling along the road by the side of the Lagoon near Ipanema, another half an hour until we reached the entry to the tunnel under the Corcovado mountain. Above us, the illuminated statue of Christ the Redeemer stared out over Rio de Janeiro and the Maracaña Stadium on the other side.

In the end, though, the mass became fluid and the cars started moving. By then, the 9.35pm kick-off was only a few minutes away, but it did not seem to matter. We were on a pilgrimage, not just a journey in see 90 minutes of football.

This was a stadium we were going to see, not a match. Botafogo, the Brazilian champions, versus Corinthians, the group four of the Libertadores Cup, the South American club cup, would be a fascinating spectacle, a lesson from two Rio teams in the beautiful way to play the game, but it was the theatre that was important.

From the top of the Corcovado, the Maracaña looks like a giant spaceship fallen to earth. When you get closer, there is a glow in the night sky and a buzz in the air. The black-and-white-striped Botafogo club shirts are strung along what look like washing lines by the side of the roads.

When you are right outside the stadium, it is too big to be able to grasp its size. It turns the supporters milling around it into pygmies and dwarfs the host of street hawkers. When you get inside the gate, the shivers start going down your spine. You hear the noise from inside, the deafening cheers when the teams run out, the frenzied, constant beat of the drums and, suffusing it all, the low hum of excitement that you get in the Tropics instead of coarse shouts of Europe.

The scale of the thing only hits you, though, when you slot your plastic pass into a

Behind me, some younger men wearing bandannas emblazoned with the name of the Botafogo centre forward, Tulio, grew apoplectic when a midfielder failed to thread the ball through to him and the attack broke down. Some of the football was breathtaking nevertheless, not a long ball in sight, full of extravagant drag-back turns, flicks and one-touch moves. At half-time, though, it was goalless.

During the interval, I bought one Coke for myself and one for the little boy who kept tugging at my sleeve and pointing at his empty cup. My hot-dog may or may not have had something to do with the next day's violent food poisoning. It was either that or the burger at Rio airport.

Midway through the second half, Dauri scored for Botafogo with a falling volley. On the vast upper tier, men with flags hurtled along the terraces, ripping off their shirts, flinging themselves at friends in wild celebration. A minute later, Corinthians equalised and their small group of fans went through the same extravagant ritual.

That was how it ended. When the whistle went, the chanting stopped and the drums ceased. But if that was what it was like with 16,000 inside, the noise generated by 140,000 must be like something from another world, not just another continent.

Cullen's goal came from a penalty corner, driven low inside the post. It was enough to give them the edge, but, finding the going tougher after the break, they were caught out by a free hit deflected in by Florein Cornelis after 48 minutes. Hightown's rivals for the gold medal, Berliner, have scored just three goals in the tournament and lost to the Irish club, Pegasus, 2-1 yesterday.

IT TOOK Tina Cullen just seven minutes to score her seventh goal of the tournament as Hightown drew 1-1 with Rotterdam in the women's hockey European Cup Winners' Cup in Holland yesterday. That one point was all Hightown needed to earn a place in the final today against Berliner, the favourites.

Before the competition began, Maggie Souyave, the coach, had warned that only the best would do in Europe — Hightown would not have a second chance to put things right. With Cullen providing the goals, they have not needed any second chances.

She certainly had enough practice on Saturday, putting away four goals in a 12-0 rout of Libertas San Saba, of Italy, Lucy Newcombe scoring three, Trish Maudsley two and Yana Williams, Jackie Crook and Jenny Worthington getting one each as the Italian side were overrun.

It was not so easy yesterday, with Hightown and Rotterdam vying for a place in the final. A point ahead of the Dutch at the start, Hightown could not afford to let Rotterdam get the upper hand. However, Rotterdam are not as fearsome as the Dutch teams of old. This season, they are battling against relegation in their domestic league while Hightown are chasing their first title.

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Hightown set sights on golden opportunity

By Alex Ramsay

GUILDFORD'S hopes of qualifying for the men's European Cup Winner's Cup hockey final were dashed by a 2-0 defeat by Durbheim, of Germany, in The Hague yesterday. There remains, however, the chance of the bronze medal, which will be decided by today's match against Valdevez, of Spain.

Needing only a draw to reach the final, Guildford lost the tactical battle after a spirited first half in which only two shots were aimed at goal. The first, by Williams, was easily blocked by the goalkeeper, Erlwein, and a weaker effort, by Krauss for the Germans, was deflected for a long corner.

After the interval, Durbheim became more assertive and went ahead in the 49th minute when Bechmann, a member of the Olympic Games squad, scored from the rebound after Priday had saved from Moissi. Hall had two chances to redress the balance, but both shots were deflected, while Kohler shot over the top for the Germans when well placed.

After Cartmell was brought on as a substitute, Guildford pushed forward, but, in doing so, left gaps in defence. With only three minutes remaining, Krauss crowned a solo run with a goal that left no doubt about the result. A minute before the end, Mattion, of Guildford, was suspended for a questionable tackle.

On Saturday, Guildford had defeated Bohemians, from the Czech Republic, 3-0, Hall scoring twice and Jennings finding the target from a short corner.

Durbheim's opponents in today's final will be the host club, HDM, for whom the Holland international defender, Wouter van Pelt, scored three times in a 3-1 victory over Valdevez.

Guildford hope for consolation in bronze

By Sydney Friskin

WILLIAM FOX-PITT, a team gold medal-winner at the European three-day event championships last September and a leading contender for a place in the British Olympic team, boosted his confidence ahead of Badminton next month when he won his section of the Brigstock horse trials in Northamptonshire yesterday on his home-bred Loch Alan.

Fox-Pitt also finished third in section three on Cosmopolitan, his Olympic long-listed horse. The nine-year-old gelding gained the best dressage score of the day (25), a factor Fox-Pitt attributed to recent lessons with Christopher Bartle, the former Olympic dressage rider.

Both horses are entered to make their debuts at Badminton, the main selection trial for the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer, and Fox-Pitt was relieved to have two good preparatory outings under his belt over one of the biggest advanced courses in the country. "They both gave me a superb ride, apart from one hiccup in the water with Cosmopolitan when I lost my stirrup," Fox-Pitt said.

Ian Stark, the former European champion and a member of the British team for ten years from 1983, made a triumphant return to top-class competition with Stanwick Ghost. They won section one after a flamboyant cross-country round. The ten-year-old gelding has had 12 months off after injuring both his tendons, but yesterday he showed no sign of rustiness.

Stark also had a clear round on his Olympic long-listed horse, Mr Mickinnon, on which he was ninth at Burghley last year, but, after collecting 16 faults in the show jumping, did not hurry him on the cross-country.

Andrew Nicholson, from New Zealand, won section three on Cartoon II. Both he

Fox-Pitt makes most of Badminton rehearsal

By Jenny MacArthur

and the runner-up, Polly Clark on Poggio, had only five time faults across country, but five show-jumping faults for Fox-Pitt. Nicholson victory. He also finished seventh on Jagermeister II.

Nicholson's compatriot, Mark Todd, a double Olympic champion, had a mixed day. He was placed on both Chessman and Dark Angel, but found himself on the ground when Vambi Charboniere, the winner of Chantilly last year, was too strong going into the water.

Kristina Gifford, another Briton and the first to go, also found herself on the floor when General Jock, one of her two Olympic long-listed horses, attempted to bank the second part of fence nine. Gifford, winner of a team gold medal at both the European and world championships in the past two years, completed the course without further incident and was also clear, but slow, on Midnight Blue, on which she incurred ten show-jumping penalties.

Karen Dixon, another Olympic contender, also had a disappointing day. She retired Hot Property at fence six and was then advised by the vet not to run her two top horses, Too Smart and Get Smart, across country.

Results, page 31

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Results, page 31

Whitaker's final quest

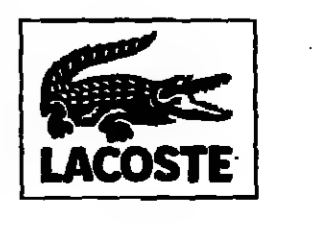
MICHAEL WHITAKER'S last chance to qualify for the Volvo World Cup show jumping final in Geneva rests on the back of the nine-year-old, Magic Carpet. The horse, who has been rested since December's Mechelen Show, needs to leap four places in the points standings to land Whitaker a place in the final in two weeks' time, where Nick Skelton will be defending his title.

The horse is improving

over the show. Another fourth would do the job nicely," Whitaker said before the final round of the European World Cup League in Gothenburg. Fourth place would be enough for him to join his brother, John, who qualified for the final via his third place in Paris last week.

Di Lampard needs to leap eight places in the standings on Abbeville Dream to strengthen the British presence in Geneva.

Results, page 31









Asprilla's flexible assets slow to yield profit for Keegan



Kevin Keegan stands before the world accused of the terrible crime of painting the lily, of gilding refined gold, of seeking to improve a team that was ambly away with the championship...

Simon Barnes sees Newcastle keep their hopes alive with a 2-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers

Simon Barnes sees Newcastle keep their hopes alive with a 2-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers. Being a large-souled footballing type, but he began with the most anonymous 45 minutes I have seen him play...

promising midfielder by the name of Wilkins. They took the lead when Holloway charged through to wallop a deflected cross into the net. If Newcastle salvage the championship from the wreckage of Keegan's vaulting ambition...

Leaders stand firm under pressure to thrust City back into danger United emerge stirred but not shaken

Manchester City ..... 2 Manchester United ..... 3

IT IS hard being a Manchester City supporter, never more so than in games against United. On Saturday, true to form, City twice came from behind to bring their supporters into triumphant voice...



Schmeichel spreads his wings as Kavelashvili, scorer of City's first equaliser, goes for goal at Maine Road. Photograph: Ian Stewart

That did rather less than justice to United's goalkeeper, but United's winning goal, after Rösler had come on to score City's second equaliser, suggested that it takes time for a team to get out of this problem...

Table with 5 columns: Rank, Team, Played, Points, Goal diff, Recent form. Lists Premier League teams and their statistics.

Evans surveys wreckage of his title dream

ON WEDNESDAY night against Newcastle United, Liverpool were a luxury liner, all string quartets, evening dress, table-top ice carvings and seamless magicians. On Saturday, they hit Highfield Road and became the flotsam and jetsam of Premiership also-rans...



Salako: controversial tackle

Entertainment down the tube despite promising platform

IT STARTED promisingly and then ground to a halt. The trip to Upton Park, that is, on the day that London Underground ceased to function. Being stranded in a tunnel is not the best way to prepare for an Easter Saturday of supposed leisure and pleasure...

Coventry aiming for repeat performance

RECEIVED wisdom suggests that results on Saturday mean the FA Carling Premiership is a two-horse race again, yet if Coventry City, after beating Liverpool on Saturday, can repeat the treatment to Manchester United at Old Trafford this afternoon and Blackburn Rovers upset Newcastle United this evening, that could all change...

Peace accord leaves Wright free to make No 1 record

prepared to take part of the blame for the rift that developed between him and Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, and culminated in a transfer request being submitted, and rejected, six weeks ago. Upset by Rioch's criticism of his training-ground antics and forced to play as a lone striker earlier in the season, Wright asked for a move 'on a point of principle'. It had, he said, helped to clear the air...











# Chance for St Helens to build on fine start

By Christopher Irvine

UNDER Shaun McRae, St Helens have achieved in three months what had been beyond them for years, first reaching the rugby league Challenge Cup final, on April 27, and then breaking a long sequence of defeats by Wigan last Friday.

A habit St Helens have of gaining a fine win, then making a fine mess of things in their next match, is one that their Australian coach is anxious to see end today in the noon encounter at Leeds.

It is possible that St Helens could have an early outright lead in the Super League by tonight. Only two other sides are unbeaten, but Warrington face the inevitable Wigan backlash at Central Park and London Broncos will travel with some trepidation to Bradford Bulls, the other Wembley finalists.

The team is largely the one

Super League fixtures ..... 31

he inherited from his predecessor, but where the unfortunate Eric Hughes got it wrong, McRae, so far, has got things quickly right, getting St Helens back to Wembley after five years and beating Wigan for the first time since the 1993 Premiership final.

McRae is blessed with some excellent talent at Knowsley Road. However, orchestration is required to get good soloists to make music together and McRae's direction has brought far greater harmony in areas of defence where St Helens were vulnerable. In six matches, he has yet to lose.

The one player McRae has brought in, Derek McVey, a second-row forward from Sydney Tigers, had an enormous bearing on the 41-26 defeat of Wigan. A repeat of his rampaging running and off-loading of the ball under pressure can only do further damage to a Leeds side showing obvious strains.

Leeds and Workington Town are the only sides to have lost their two opening games. Castleford Tigers denied Leeds with a last-minute try on Friday and there had been booing at Headingley

during the opening defeat by Warrington. A third would bring added pressures for Dean Bell, the Leeds coach.

A back scare on Martin Offiah revealed a cracked vertebra, which will keep the Wigan wing out for at least a fortnight. Rob Smyth takes his place for the visit of Warrington and their coach, John Dorahy, whose troubled season at Wigan ended in dismissal four days after the side won the 1994 Challenge Cup.

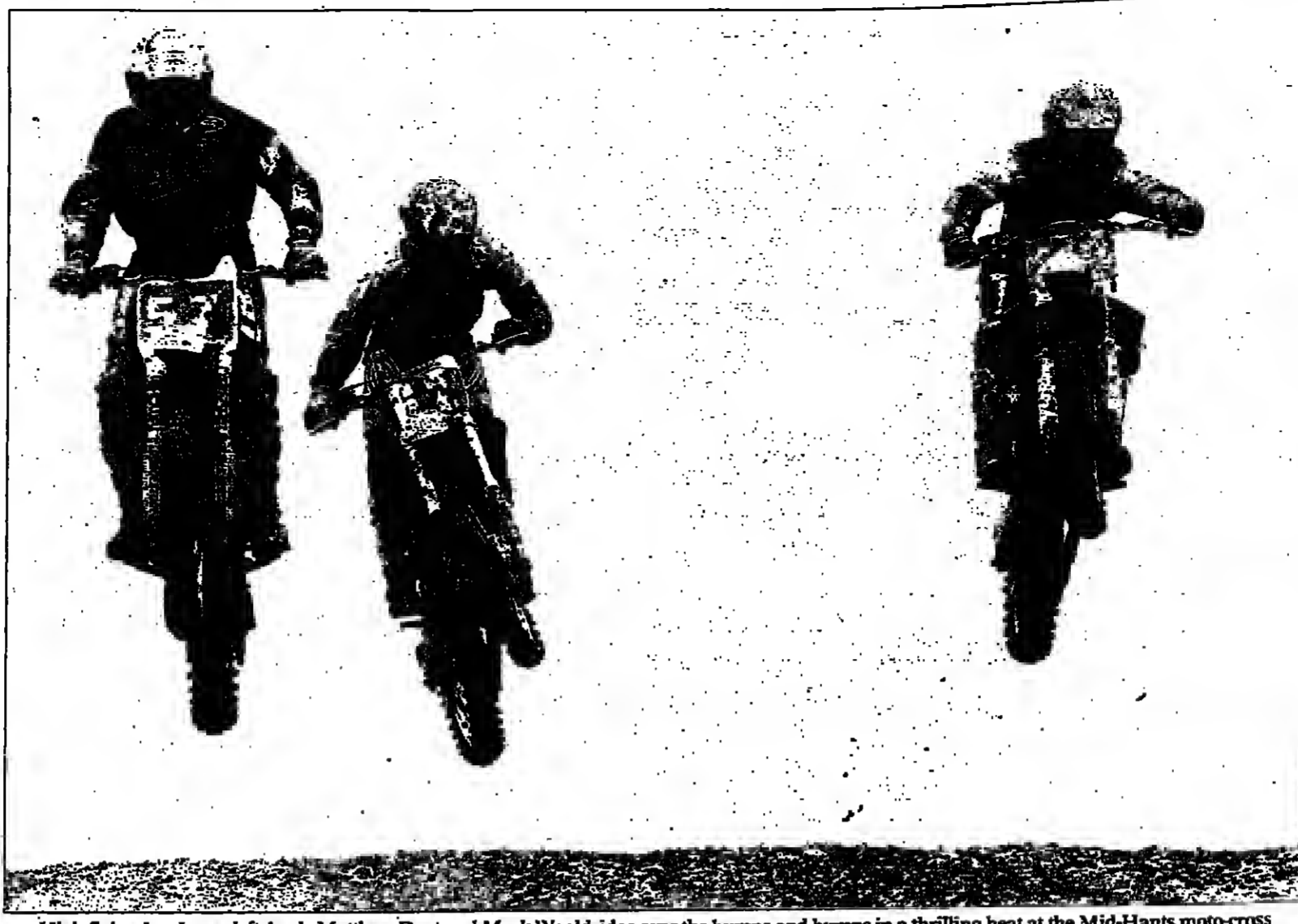
Dorahy is one half of a "dream team" at Warrington with Alex Murphy, the team manager, who also knows what it is like to be dismissed by Wigan. Tonight brings an early opportunity to fulfil Murphy's words when they were appointed in January: "I promise you one thing," he said then, "John Dorahy will come back to haunt Wigan."

Iestyn Harris, Paul Sculthorpe and Lee Penry are youngsters with a tremendous future. What Warrington lack are experienced craftsmen to blend in with youthful potential. In their last four meetings, Wigan have won with plenty to spare and, after their problems of the last week, Wigan will want to produce a convincing performance.

Tony Currie, the London coach, was highly critical of his side, in spite of the win against Paris Saint-Germain on Thursday. A more pragmatic approach will be required to gain a first win at Bradford, which would represent a start to the Broncos' season beyond all expectations.

Paris attracted nearly 18,000 to the Charley Stadium for the opening-day defeat of Sheffield Eagles, which brought a media awakening in France. Oldham Bears are the visitors today and the emphasis will be on the home team to keep up the good work in the name of rugby league by achieving a second win.

Workington sank without trace at home to St Helens eight days ago, gave a far bener account of themselves before losing 45-30 at Warrington and now need to repeat their win of last season against Sheffield at Derwent Park.



High-flying Lee Jones, left, leads Matthew Dent and Mark Woodbridge over the humps and bumps in a thrilling heat at the Mid-Hants moto-cross championships at Thruxton yesterday, where many of the leading riders in the United Kingdom were competing. Photograph: Marc Aspland

# Clifton court success against the odds

By Stuart Jones

IN A different context, the black, pock-marked walls might have been used to illustrate a day's shelling in a war zone. Apart from the presence of numerous scuff marks, as though hails of bullets had ricocheted off the surface, three gaping holes suggested heavier artillery had been at work.

Clifton College's rackets court, one of only 37 in the world, is plainly in need of refurbishment. The damage has been inflicted during more than a century of activity in an arena that is said to be used more often than any other except at Queen's, the headquarters of the sport.

Converted into a basketball court by the Americans during the war the doorway was filled in and another was hacked out of the side wall, it is to be repaired during the summer at a cost of £4,000. Clifton are also in the process of re-establishing their prowess in rackets.

None of their individuals

has claimed the Foster Cup, the national schools championship, since 1990. The winner then was Matthew Windows, now a county cricketer with Gloucestershire. One of his former rivals, Toby Sawrey-Cookson, has since changed allegiances.

A semi-finalist in the Foster Cup, he was a contemporary of Windows at Wellington and is the professional in charge of guiding Clifton's resurgence.

"The standard among the seniors is weak at the moment," he conceded, "but there are some promising juniors coming through."

In view of the current comparatively low status, he was initially bemused by the visit of an outsider. Sawrey-Cookson, 23, was too bashful to disclose that he is the British under-24 doubles champion, a title he won with Jonathan Larkin in January, and is rated unofficially in singles as the ninth-best player.

The competitive field is restricted. He competes in no more than half-a-dozen tournaments a year and the re-



Schools results ..... 31

wards are equally limited. He estimates that the overall prize-money he has earned in three years as a professional amounts to a mere £1,300.

He pointed out that the winner of the British Open, one of the three titles that have to be won by anyone with pretensions to challenging the world champion, receives some £800. It is not as if the equipment is cheap either. Even a moderate racket can cost as much as £40.

The teenage experience of

the chairman of the Boosters, the club which uses the court at Clifton during the evenings, exemplifies the potential expense. In one term at Harrow, Claude Rome broke 37 rackets and ran up a bill that exceeded the school fees.

Eton, represented by all four semi-finalists in the last Foster Cup, remain the dominant force. With two courts and 1,100 pupils, they have a distinct numerical advantage. Girls, none of whom play rackets, form almost half of Clifton's 650 students.

More popular pastimes are rugby (Kevin Bowring was the director of sport until he left to take up his post as the Wales coach) and cricket. A plaque commemorates the world record achieved by "A. E. J. Collins who scored 629 runs on this ground" in a junior house match in 1899.

Nevertheless, Sawrey-Cookson believes that Clifton could in a couple of years challenge the likes of Eton, Harrow and Tonbridge. He is depending on the continuing development of three young-

sters — Nathan Thevathasan, George Buck and Daniel Kane. Thevathasan had never played the game before he arrived from Sri Lanka. Nor had Buck, whose father was a headmaster in Kenya. By the time they are seniors, their tutor expects to be reaching his own peak. He lost in the first round of the British Open last month, but to the eventual champion, James Male, who is also world champion.

Sawrey-Cookson, who admits that his 6ft 2in frame may be larger than the ideal for rackets, competed last week with Larkin in the British Open doubles championship at Queen's. His regular partner will also assist him to prepare for his debut in the US Open later this month.

They will practise in the crumbling court, receiving the customary less whenever the ball veers off the edges of the holes. Clifton's students will shortly be seeking perfection there as well, and not only in their physical activities. The room also houses the GCSE examinations.

Scoreboards, page 31

# Ranatunga ready to hand over captaincy to de Silva

By Our Sports Staff

SRI Lanka's cricket captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, 32, who led his side to victory over Australia in the World Cup final last month, is to step down. In a newspaper interview yesterday, Ranatunga said it was time he handed over the reins.

"I think I've done my bit, having been captain since 1989," Ranatunga said. The left-handed batsman, who first represented his country as an 18-year-old schoolboy, nominated his vice-captain, Aravinda de Silva, as his successor. "With his experience and capabilities, he will handle the team very well," Ranatunga said.

His announcement came on the day that Sri Lanka lost to Pakistan by 43 runs in the final of the Singer Cup in Singapore, but not before their swashbuckling opening batsman, Sanath Jayasuriya, had established another one-day batting record. He struck a half-century from only 17 balls — one less than the previous record held by the Simon O'Donnell, of Australia, — as Sri Lanka chased a victory target of 216.

There were five sixes and eight fours in Jayasuriya's innings of 76 from 28 deliveries, but, when he was out, Sri Lanka collapsed on a pitch that gave the off spinner, Saqlain, all the help he needed to turn the game.

In Kingstown, St Vincent, Brian Lara and Phil Simmons scored centuries as West Indies beat New Zealand by seven wickets in the deciding one-day international to take the series by three matches in two. Lara struck 104 and Simmons 103 not out, adding 186 in a third-wicket partnership that began with West Indies struggling at 31 for two in reply to New Zealand's 241 for eight.

It was Lara's ninth one-day century and his second of the series. He hit a six and ten fours from the 103 balls he received.

West Indies needed 25 runs off the remaining nine overs after Lara's dismissal and Simmons saw them home. His fifth one-day hundred included two sixes and ten fours off 125 balls. He finished the match by pulling Cairns to the fine-line boundary off the third-delivery of the penultimate over.

# Woking maintain winning habit to stay in hunt for title

Woking ..... 2  
Macclesfield Town ..... 3

By Walter Gammie

WHEN confirmation of Stevenage Borough's defeat at Morecambe reached the home dressing-room at Kingfield on Saturday, added edge was given to the euphoria generated by a thrilling Woking victory. Now just a point behind the leaders, having played a match more, Woking travel to Stevenage today with the Vauxhall Conference title tantalisingly within reach.

Six successive wins make a persuasive case for their chances. The spirit with which, 2-1 behind at half-time and down to ten men with Hunter, their scorer, sent off, they rallied to seize the spoils an even more forceful one.

Four minutes into the second half, Woking withdrew Baron from their five-man defence and sent on Adams, a forward. It was a statement of intent to which the players responded magnificently. Their attacking balance restored with a flat back four, Woking flowed forward, rekindled their passing game and played a previously rampant Macclesfield off the pitch.

Adams did his bit with two

deceptive left-foot strikes. In the 55th minute, he timed his stretch at the far post to steer in a cross by Steele, then, in the 64th minute, he pulled away from the defence as Walker weaved to the byline and turned away a perfect pass with aplomb.

Walker, the former Chelsea and Sunderland wing, might, at 38, have seen it all before.

Pool Town survived the ignominy of entering the Guinness Book of Records as the worst team in football history when they drew 0-0 with Bashley in the Beazer Homes League on Saturday. Pool had previously suffered 39 successive defeats, equalling the record set by Stockport United in 1977.

but he was clearly pleased with his piece of sorcery. "When the adrenalin starts flowing, everyone wants to take on extra responsibility — and no one missed out in that respect," he said. "I felt I just wanted to try something extra. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't." Most of 4,383 crowd, the best of the season in the Conference, roared their approval.

For Sammy McLroy, the

Macclesfield manager, Hunter's sending off had proved a predictable turning point. "You see it so often," he said. "In the second half, we simply didn't match them for commitment."

His dismay was understandable. Macclesfield, having fallen behind, played smooth, controlled football and twice pulled apart Woking's defence for Sorvel and then Coates to deliver crosses for Power to score.

They were ahead and looking comfortable when Hunter was ordered off in the 32nd minute. Having made his mark with a fine goal, hooking the ball over his shoulder and driving the ball across Price in Macclesfield's goal, Hunter needlessly tripped Hemmings to add a second yellow card to one he had picked up for a foul in the second minute.

At the finish, the match sponsor declined to pick out a man of the match, nominating the entire Woking team. "I've never seen that before," Walker said, "but who would want to argue?"

WOKING (35-1-2): J. Basty — J. Crumple, M. Tucker, K. Brown, T. Baron (sub), O. Adams, 49 (pen), S. Greater (sub), O. Timothy, 20 — C. Fielder, A. Ellis — S. Steele — J. Hunter, C. Walker.  
MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-3): R. Price — O. Trison, W. Howarth, S. Payne, M. Gardner — S. Wood (sub), O. Lyons, 84, N. Sorell, K. Hulme, A. Hemmings — M. Coates, P. Power. Referee: R. Styles.

# Bright start brings reward for Oxford

Oxford University ..... 2  
Cambridge University ..... 1

By David Miller

THE attendance for the University football match at Craven Cottage — 1,260 — was more than half that for Cambridge United's home match in the Endsteigh Insurance League third division. Not bad at all (twice David Miller). However, it is eight years since Cambridge University's last victory and Oxford's fourth win in this spell was the reward of dominance in the first hour.

It was difficult to detect any serious coaching influence on either team, unless it was the respective tactical formations: Oxford's 4-5-1, Cambridge's 1-1-5-2, both of them surprisingly negative for an encounter that is neither league nor Cup, but a one-off and supposedly an occasion for some style.

Oxford's lone attacker, Perera, failed to achieve his professed impersonation of Faustino Asprilla and it was the mobility and control of Smith, Bissell, Loosemore and the two Hanssens in midfield that gave Oxford the edge.

Cambridge played with a sweeper, White, behind a

marker, Budd, behind a mid-field sweeper, Thompson, the captain. Thompson's inaccurate distribution did not make the most of lively performances in front of him by Pett and Evans in midfield and Millar up front.

Loosemore headed Oxford in front after a quarter of an hour from a corner by Jens-Peter Hanssen, who had earlier hit the angle of the posts. After Pett and Hayward had missed scrambled chances for Cambridge, Oxford pressed for the remainder of the first half and went two up soon after the hour when Smith rounded Park and shot home from an acute angle. Millar scored ten minutes from the end from a penalty for a handling offence and thereafter Cambridge wasted openings for a draw with ragged shooting.

Only half a dozen players showed natural ability and Evans, who has professional experience with Luton, was named man of the match. CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: J. Park (35), S. Bell (37), R. Henderson (Chris Hall), M. Budd (Chris), A. Thomson (St. Catherine's, captain), I. White (Trinity Hall), M. Paul (Christ), K. Hayward (Fitzwilliam), M. Evans (Homerton), R. Miller (St. John's), R. Moore (Christ Church). OXFORD UNIVERSITY: J. Newby (St. Catherine's), J. Parker (St. John's), A. Buckley (Oriel), R. Westwood (St. Edmund Hall), J. Smith (Trinity Hall), J. Hanssen (St. Antony's), M. Goff (Queens' Hall), H. Hanssen (Corpus Christi).

# Lowly Royals stay defiant

By Nicholas Harling

THE near-capacity crowds that have watched the Hemel Hempstead Royals basketball team all season — most recently on Saturday for the visit of the deposed champions, Sheffield Sharks — provide a powerful argument as to why the Budweiser League's bottom club should not be relegated. Less persuasive is the team itself, whose meagre tally of six wins in 36 games means that the club will have to sweat over the next month on its status next season.

Hemel have finished bottom twice in the past four seasons, yet the club's owner, Vince MacCauley-Razaq, is adamant: "I would like to feel that we have made some progress

since we took the club over," he said after the Royals had shumped to a 93-77 defeat by the Sharks. "I am 100 per cent confident of being in the league next season."

Like most owners, Razaq welcomes the new ruling that will permit clubs to field five foreign players from next season. "It's the best thing that could ever have happened to this league," he said. "We want to encourage English players as much as we can, but they shouldn't be in a comfort zone of being guaranteed places just because they are English."

Just to endorse his point, two Americans had earlier led the scoring. Jason Siemon

collected 23 points for the Royals, who trailed throughout chiefly because the Sharks had, in his compatriot, Todd Cauthorn, the scorer of 25 points, the game's outstanding performer. Roger Huggins kept the English flag flying with his contribution of 24 points for the Sharks. That was two less than Peter Scantlebury — who he recently succeeded as England captain — accumulated for Thames Valley Tigers in their 108-86 home loss to the champions, London Towers.

Mark Robinson's 40 for Manchester Giants in their 109-97 win over Chester Jets was the best individual tally of the weekend.

# Furlan clinches Italian victory

RENZO FURLAN'S victory over Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, in Rome yesterday gave Italy a place in the Davis Cup semi-finals for the first time in 16 years. Cheered on by 6,000 supporters in the Foro Italico, Furlan won 3-6, 6-0, 7-6, 6-2 in 2hr 42min to establish a winning 3-1 margin.

"We have won a great match," Adriano Panatta, the Italians' captain, said before he was hoisted on to the

shoulders of jubilant team members. "Now let's move on to the semi-finals against France. It's a very open competition."

France, who had already qualified at Germany's expense when Guy Forget and Arnaud Boetsch beat Boris Becker and Marc Goellner in Saturday's doubles, completed a 5-0 whitewash in Limoges when Forget and Cedric Pioline scored singles victories over David Prinosil and

Hendrick Dreekmann. They are in the semi-finals for the first time since 1991. The Germans were without Michael Stich while Becker played only in the doubles because of a respiratory infection.

Sweden completed a 5-0 rout of India on grass in Calcutta and will now meet the Czech Republic, who gained a 3-2 win over the United States in Prague when Petr Korda beat MaliVai Washington 7-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Tickets from £7.50.  
So much for hitting the Scottish where it hurts most.  
First game April 14th  
London Monarchs v Scottish Claymores

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CALL 0500 35 35 35 FOR TICKETS.  
What could the Scottish possibly hate more than losing money? Losing their first game of the season to the English. Venue: White Hart Lane, Tottenham • Home games: April 14, May 6, May 19, May 27, June 16 • Pre-game Power Party at 12.00pm • Kick-off at 3.00pm • Courtesy shuttle bus with return service from Seven Sisters tube • Half-price admission for children 12 and under • Season tickets: 5 for the price of 4 • Ticket orders are subject to agency booking fees.

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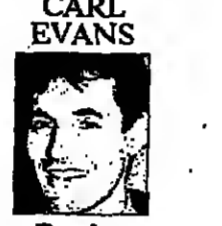


FRIDAY APRIL 8 1996
Ranatunga ready to hand over captaincy to de Silva

Point-to-point should build on increase in standards

If you like betting on the jump jockeys' championship and are looking for a winner around the year 2000, get to a point-to-point this weekend.
Had you done so last year you might well hold a ticket at a decent price when Richard Johnson being a champion one day. Since he is now a professional and has displayed his talents on Mr Mulligan this season, that seems a good bet.

These looking for similar opportunities should now consider Peter Henley, an assistant to Robert Alen, and Robert Thornton, who, like Johnson, is learning his trade with David Nicholson. They are but two who have caught the eye.
Neither man is likely to win the national point-to-point title Johnson's total of seven wins in points last year was less than a quarter of the total ridden by champion Alastair Crow, a Shropshire farmer. They will learn plenty about racing which will stand them in good stead when they turn professional, and since both can ride at under 10st and are gifted, they will in time.



Racing commentary CARL EVANS

"I wonder," he said, while standing in a muddy Oxfordshire field at a recent meeting, "whether these gifted young men will be back here in 20 years time. Whether they will put up the railings, mark out the car parks, do their bit as stewards and judges.
We must not forget the farmers' sons and daughters. They are the ones who will volunteer to do those jobs one day, but only if they enjoy the thrill of racing now.
Good riders on their way to the professional circuit are a boon for the sport. More novices riders' races and those which are set at 12st 7lb, instead of 12st, would help the many well-bred six-furlongers who want to take part, and preserve the next generation of volunteers."

Dare takes title lead with Ledbury double

ONE of the sport's most enduring partnerships is back on top. Alison Dare and trainer Dick Baimbridge make a formidable team and at the Ledbury meeting on Saturday they paired up for a double to take her tally for the season to 17 and a clear lead in the women's championship.
Pip Jones is now one behind after victory on Lucky Ole Son at the Langblyth, but Polly Curling suffered two falls without adding to her score of 15 at the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale.
Dare, 38, has been riding winners for Baimbridge since 1970, quietly collecting five riders' titles on the way.
Her record this year, after victories on Lansdale Alfred and Split Second, reads 17 wins, a second, three fourths and fifth with one fall from 22 rides. "To think this time last

POINT-TO-POINT NEWS
ASHFORD VALLEY (Charing) Hunt: 1. Alzamora (A. Webb), 4-5 fav. 2. Soverign (G. Stratton, 5-1). 3. Raging Storm (G. Stratton, 9-4). 4. Daydream (M. Wainwright, 10-1). 5. Adamant (M. Wainwright, 10-1). 6. Marquis (M. Wainwright, 10-1). 7. Mornay (M. Wainwright, 10-1). 8. Mornay (M. Wainwright, 10-1). 9. Mornay (M. Wainwright, 10-1). 10. Mornay (M. Wainwright, 10-1).

NOTTINGHAM

THUNDERER
2.20 1 Can't Remember, 2.50 Pride Of Britain, 3.20 Barge, 3.50 Montecristo, 4.20 Dancing Cavalier, 4.50 Laughing Buccaneer.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 EASTER EGG SELLING STAKES

- 1 1 LAMPY FROG (D. B.) 6-2
2 2 LAMPY FROG (D. B.) 6-2
3 3 LAMPY FROG (D. B.) 6-2
4 4 LAMPY FROG (D. B.) 6-2
5 5 LAMPY FROG (D. B.) 6-2

2.50 ROBIN HOOD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

- 1 3-3 FRONTMAN 16 (D. B.) 5-4
2 3-3 FRONTMAN 16 (D. B.) 5-4
3 3-3 FRONTMAN 16 (D. B.) 5-4
4 3-3 FRONTMAN 16 (D. B.) 5-4
5 3-3 FRONTMAN 16 (D. B.) 5-4

3.20 FAMILY DAY OUT HANDICAP

- 1 4-1 DOUBLE SPLENDOR 16 (D. B.) 5-4
2 4-1 DOUBLE SPLENDOR 16 (D. B.) 5-4
3 4-1 DOUBLE SPLENDOR 16 (D. B.) 5-4
4 4-1 DOUBLE SPLENDOR 16 (D. B.) 5-4
5 4-1 DOUBLE SPLENDOR 16 (D. B.) 5-4

3.05 BBC CWR HANDICAP

- 1 4-0 SISTER KIT 17 (D. B.) 6-2
2 4-0 SISTER KIT 17 (D. B.) 6-2
3 4-0 SISTER KIT 17 (D. B.) 6-2
4 4-0 SISTER KIT 17 (D. B.) 6-2
5 4-0 SISTER KIT 17 (D. B.) 6-2

3.35 HIGH TENSILE BOLTS HANDICAP

- 1 2-4 FERRY KNIGHT 18 (D. B.) 6-2
2 2-4 FERRY KNIGHT 18 (D. B.) 6-2
3 2-4 FERRY KNIGHT 18 (D. B.) 6-2
4 2-4 FERRY KNIGHT 18 (D. B.) 6-2
5 2-4 FERRY KNIGHT 18 (D. B.) 6-2

4.05 WARWICK CARVALY CLAIMING STAKES

- 1 0 POLY MI BOM 17 (M. G.) 6-2
2 0 POLY MI BOM 17 (M. G.) 6-2

CARLISLE

THUNDERER
2.20 Mill Thyme, 2.50 Shawwell, 3.20 Master Sandy, 3.50 Stagfoot, 4.20 Well Appointed, 4.50 Brazen Gold, 5.20 My Buster.

2.20 SOLWAY MARES ONLY NOVICES CLAIMING STAKES

- 1 0 CAROLINE PRINCESS 15 (D. B.) 6-2
2 0 CAROLINE PRINCESS 15 (D. B.) 6-2
3 0 CAROLINE PRINCESS 15 (D. B.) 6-2

2.50 BOWNESS NOVICES HURDLE

- 1 001 MASTER SANDY 20 (D. B.) 6-2
2 001 MASTER SANDY 20 (D. B.) 6-2
3 001 MASTER SANDY 20 (D. B.) 6-2

3.50 EASTER BONNET HANDICAP

- 1 66-1 NO CLUES 21 (D. B.) 6-2
2 66-1 NO CLUES 21 (D. B.) 6-2
3 66-1 NO CLUES 21 (D. B.) 6-2

4.20 EASTER BUNNY HANDICAP

- 1 3-13 BALLOON 43 (D. B.) 6-2
2 3-13 BALLOON 43 (D. B.) 6-2
3 3-13 BALLOON 43 (D. B.) 6-2

4.50 EASTER MONDAY HANDICAP

- 1 63-6 KATIE WINDMILL 22 (D. B.) 6-2
2 63-6 KATIE WINDMILL 22 (D. B.) 6-2
3 63-6 KATIE WINDMILL 22 (D. B.) 6-2

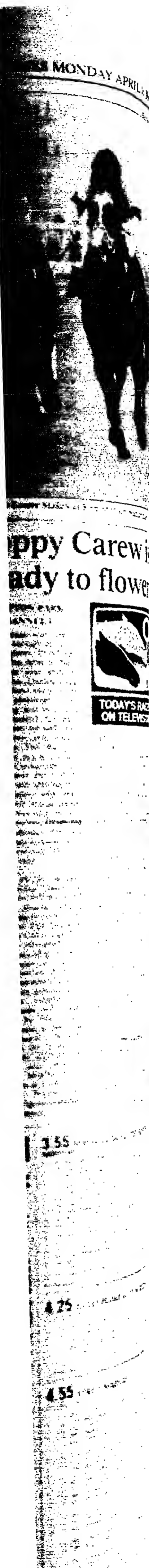
COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINER: R. Charlton, 8 winners from 30 runners, 26% J. Bains, 3 runs in 25, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132th, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212th, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 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1262nd, 1263rd, 1264th, 1265th, 1266th, 1267th, 1268th, 1269th, 1270th, 1271st, 1272nd, 1273rd, 1274th, 1275th, 1276th, 1277th, 1278th, 1279th, 1280th, 1281st, 1282nd, 1283rd, 1284th, 1285th, 1286th, 1287th, 1288th, 1289th, 1290th, 1291st, 1292nd, 1293rd, 1294th, 1295th, 1296th, 1297th, 1298th, 1299th, 1300th, 1301st, 1302nd, 1303rd, 1304th, 1305th, 1306th, 1307th, 1308th, 1309th, 1310th, 1311st, 1312nd, 1313th, 1314th, 1315th, 1316th, 1317th, 1318th, 1319th, 1320th, 1321st, 1322nd, 1323rd, 1324th, 1325th, 1326th, 1327th, 1328th, 1329th, 1330th, 1331st, 1332nd, 1333rd, 1334th, 1335th, 1336th, 1337th, 1338th, 1339th, 1340th, 1341st, 1342nd, 1343rd, 1344th, 1345th, 1346th, 1347th, 1348th, 1349th, 1350th, 1351st, 1352nd, 1353rd, 1354th, 1355th, 1356th, 1357th, 1358th, 1359th, 1360th, 1361st, 1362nd, 1363rd, 1364th, 1365th, 1366th, 1367th, 1368th, 1369th, 1370th, 1371st, 1372nd, 1373rd, 1374th, 1375th, 1376th, 1377th, 1378th, 1379th, 1380th, 1381st, 1382nd, 1383rd, 1384th, 1385th, 1386th, 1387th, 1388th, 1389th, 1390th, 1391st, 1392nd, 1393rd, 1394th, 1395th, 1396th, 1397th, 1398th, 1399th, 1400th, 1401st, 1402nd, 1403rd, 1404th, 1405th, 1406th, 1407th, 1408th, 1409th, 1410th, 1411st, 1412nd, 1413th, 1414th, 1415th, 1416th, 1417th, 1418th, 1419th, 1420th, 1421st, 1422nd, 1423rd, 1424th, 1425th, 1426th, 1427th









Dunwoody to make late call-up count

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT
WITH THE British raiding party weakened by the absence of Sunny Bay and Tartan Tyrant...

After the disappointment of Sunny Bay and Tartan Tyrant, many British eyes will now look to the 1993 Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Jodami...

Walsh said: "Richard says he will do 10st 3lb, so we'll be carrying 3lb extra, but Richard's worth twice as much. This will be the first time the horse has carried a light weight in a big race...

Walsh added: "He seems to like Fairyhouse, too, having won his maiden hurdle, a good handicap hurdle and a novice chase there."

Lord Singapore warmed up for today's race with an impressive five-length defeat of Bob Devan in a chase over two miles, five furlongs at Leopardstown last month...

Christies Foxhunter Chase at Cheltenham last month and has replaced Sunny Bay as favourite in ante-post betting.

He could be well treated at the weights and has the assistance of Imperial Call's jockey, Conor O'Dwyer, who takes over from Dido Harding.

Dunwoody: late booking
Christies Foxhunter Chase at Cheltenham last month and has replaced Sunny Bay as favourite in ante-post betting.

Lord Singapore warmed up for today's race with an impressive five-length defeat of Bob Devan in a chase over two miles, five furlongs at Leopardstown last month...

Christies Foxhunter Chase at Cheltenham last month and has replaced Sunny Bay as favourite in ante-post betting.

Valanour lands impressive Longchamp success

VALANOUR, ridden by Gerold Mose, returned to his best form with a decisive defeat of Carling and Housmanix in the group two Prix d'Harcourt over ten furlongs at Longchamp yesterday.

started odds-on, could not handle the fast ground and finished last of the six runners. The firm going also led to the withdrawal of the likely favourite, Le Triton...

on April 28, which is also the objective of the leading Italian four-year-old Siccius. Siccius was an impressive 2 1/2 lengths winner of the £20,300 Premio d'Aprile over ten furlongs at San Siro, Milan, yesterday...

is expected to have little trouble with a weak Wood Memorial field at Aqueduct on Saturday, and that would send him to Churchill Downs as the favourite.



Aga Khan: valuable win

WINCANTON

THUNDERER
2.00 Gysart. 2.30 General Crack. 3.00 Court Joker. 3.30 Blasket Hero. 4.00 Spinning Steel. 4.30 The Bounder.

GOING: GOOD
2.00 PAY AND PLAY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (€3,020; 2m 6f) (9 runners)

1 6-80 DREAM WISE 18 (D) 5-11-12 J. A. McGeary
2 30-30 BREEZY 17 (D) 5-11-12 J. A. McGeary

2.30 GARDENS NIGHT CLUB NOVICES CHASE (€3,457; 3m 11f) (10 runners)

1 30-30 GENERAL CRACK 26 (D) 5-11-12 J. A. McGeary
2 30-30 BREEZY 17 (D) 5-11-12 J. A. McGeary

3.00 GOLF COURSE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS CLAIMING HURDLE (€2,303; 2m) (7 runners)

1 30-30 SEVEN BARS 80 (D) 5-11-12 T. Donohue
2 30-30 SEVEN BARS 80 (D) 5-11-12 T. Donohue

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER
2.15 Elite Justice. 2.45 Slingsby. 3.20 Rustic Air. 3.55 Marsh's Law. 4.30 Easy Joker. 4.45 Any Dream World Do.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)
2.15 PAY AND PLAY GOLF SELLING HURDLE (€1,800; 2m 11f) (9 runners)

1 00-51 ELITE JUSTICE 31 (D) 5-11-12 A. S. Smith
2 00-51 LINDSAY 18 (D) 5-11-12 E. Callaghan

2.45 PADDY SHEEHAN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (€3,556; 2m 3f 110yd) (15 runners)

1 00-4 ABREXIA 26 (D) 5-11-12 M. Foster
2 00-4 ABREXIA 26 (D) 5-11-12 M. Foster

3.20 VICTOR LUCAS MEMORIAL HUNT CHASE (€3,811; 2m 11f) (8 runners)

1 30-30 BALLYFARROW 13 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell
2 30-30 BALLYFARROW 13 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell

3.55 ROSELAND GROUP HURDLE (€3,058; 2m 3f 110yd) (12 runners)

1 00-4 MORNING SUN 10 (D) 5-11-12 J. O'Donnell
2 00-4 MORNING SUN 10 (D) 5-11-12 J. O'Donnell

4.30 WEST LINDSEY EASTER CUP (Novices handicap chase; €2,999; 3m 1f) (10 runners)

1 20-14 WEST HAYTER 10 (D) 5-11-12 B. Graham
2 20-14 WEST HAYTER 10 (D) 5-11-12 B. Graham

5.00 SHELL GAS HORSEWATCH NOVICES CHASE (€4,027; 2m) (8 runners)

1 12-14 MORNING SUN 10 (D) 5-11-12 R. Butler
2 12-14 MORNING SUN 10 (D) 5-11-12 R. Butler

5.30 LEVY BOARD STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (€1,434; 1m 5f 110yd) (18 runners)

1 00-4 GRAY RAY 11 (D) 5-11-12 E. Callaghan
2 00-4 GRAY RAY 11 (D) 5-11-12 E. Callaghan

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER
2.00 Colwyn Prince. 2.30 Winspit. 3.00 Strong John. 3.30 Manerose. 4.00 Maljorbo Yalozc. 4.35 Solo Gold. 5.05 Swynford Pride.

GOING: FIRM (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)
2.00 TULIP SELLING HURDLE (€1,989; 2m 11f) (8 runners)

1 3-40 FORGETFUL 52 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell
2 3-40 FORGETFUL 52 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell

4.00 IMPROVE YOUR HANDICAP CHASE (€3,535; 2m) (4 runners)

1 20-4 SAFFRON 17 (D) 5-11-12 J. A. McGeary
2 20-4 SAFFRON 17 (D) 5-11-12 J. A. McGeary

4.30 NINE HOLE NATIONAL HUNT HURDLE (€2,758; 2m) (10 runners)

1 00-10 DECIDE YOURSELF 30 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell
2 00-10 DECIDE YOURSELF 30 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell

THUNDERER
2.15 Welsh Mill. 2.45 Earlymorn Light. 3.15 Sierra Madona. 3.45 Easy Joker. 4.15 Hys Light. 4.45 Any Dream World Do.

GOING: GOOD
2.15 ARKADIA NOVICES HURDLE (€2,933; 2m) (11 runners)

1 12-11 SOLIDARITY DANCER 26 (D) 5-11-12 D. Byrne
2 12-11 SOLIDARITY DANCER 26 (D) 5-11-12 D. Byrne

2.45 HIDDENFIELD NOVICES CHASE (€3,666; 2m 11f) (7 runners)

1 10-14 ALTAIR 14 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell
2 10-14 ALTAIR 14 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell

3.15 WHARFEDALE SELLING HURDLE (€2,548; 2m 7f 110yd) (24 runners)

1 5-4 TALL MEASURE 127 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell
2 5-4 TALL MEASURE 127 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell

3.45 WETHERBY HANDICAP CHASE (€6,783; 3m 11f) (10 runners)

1 10-14 WETHERBY 22 (D) 5-11-12 A. Thornton
2 10-14 WETHERBY 22 (D) 5-11-12 A. Thornton

4.15 LEEDS NOVICES HURDLE CHASE (€3,985; 2m 11f) (8 runners)

1 31-12 HAY WAY 44 (D) 5-11-12 J. Howard Johnson
2 31-12 HAY WAY 44 (D) 5-11-12 J. Howard Johnson

4.45 WILSTROP AMATEUR RIDERS HURDLE (€2,548; 2m) (7 runners)

1 00-4 BOWE RICHMOND 20 (D) 5-11-12 S. Sadler
2 00-4 BOWE RICHMOND 20 (D) 5-11-12 S. Sadler

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER
2.15 Royale Anglets. 2.50 Tough Deal. 3.25 Glenpariff Girl. 4.00 Sammie. 4.35 Full Of Fire. 5.10 Outrag.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)
2.15 COOMBS WOOD JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (€2,253; 2m 4f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 12-11 ALZOURO 10 (D) 5-11-12 T. Eley
2 12-11 ALZOURO 10 (D) 5-11-12 T. Eley

2.50 FESTIVAL HEIGHTS AMATEUR RIDERS SELLING HURDLE CHASE (€2,369; 2m 5f) (5 runners)

1 5-40 ISLAND FOREST 14 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell
2 5-40 ISLAND FOREST 14 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell

3.25 ST GEORGE'S CENTRE NOVICES HURDLE (€2,610; 3m 11f) (13 runners)

1 3-40 URBAN VENTURE 120 (D) 5-11-12 T. M. Murphy
2 3-40 URBAN VENTURE 120 (D) 5-11-12 T. M. Murphy

3.30 WEST LANCASHIRE PUBLISHING GROUP HANDICAP CHASE (€3,630; 2m 4f 110yd) (4 runners)

1 21-11 FORTITUDE 22 (D) 5-11-12 J. H. Butler
2 21-11 FORTITUDE 22 (D) 5-11-12 J. H. Butler

4.05 DR DAVID EVANS SELLING MAIDEN HURDLE (€2,828; 2m 5f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 4-40 DESERT CHALLENGER 19 (D) 5-11-12 S. Fox
2 4-40 DESERT CHALLENGER 19 (D) 5-11-12 S. Fox

4.35 SHEPHERD'S GRAIN NOVICES CHASE (€3,659; 3m) (4 runners)

1 10-14 REAL PROGRESS 18 (D) 5-11-12 G. Turner
2 10-14 REAL PROGRESS 18 (D) 5-11-12 G. Turner

5.05 EASTERTIDE MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (€1,529; 2m 4f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 10-14 CAPTAIN MAJOR JOHN BERRY 6-11-12 J. P. Ryan
2 10-14 CAPTAIN MAJOR JOHN BERRY 6-11-12 J. P. Ryan

THUNDERER
2.30 Java Shine. 3.05 Lantern Pike. 3.40 Nessum Doro. 4.15 Whistino. 4.50 Uncle Bert. 5.25 Fun Terrier.

GOING: GOOD
2.30 RATHMAM SELLING HURDLE (€3,071; 2m) (10 runners)

1 00-4 HENRY WELFARE 676 (D) 5-11-12 J. P. Ryan
2 00-4 HENRY WELFARE 676 (D) 5-11-12 J. P. Ryan

3.05 ROBERT HOWE MEMORIAL NOVICES HURTERS CHASE (Amateurs; €2,434; 2m 5f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 0-40 JIMMY JACK 20 (D) 5-11-12 J. P. Ryan
2 0-40 JIMMY JACK 20 (D) 5-11-12 J. P. Ryan

3.40 EVENT CATERERS HANDICAP HURDLE (€3,638; 2m) (8 runners)

1 5-40 VICTORY RULER 20 (D) 5-11-12 D. Smyth
2 5-40 VICTORY RULER 20 (D) 5-11-12 D. Smyth

4.50 BINKERED FIRST TIME
CARLISLE: 2.20 Sky Lady. 2.50 Dowler Hill. 3.20 Cheep Knight. David's Way. 4.50 David Steve.

FAKENHAM

THUNDERER
2.30 Java Shine. 3.05 Lantern Pike. 3.40 Nessum Doro. 4.15 Whistino. 4.50 Uncle Bert. 5.25 Fun Terrier.

GOING: GOOD
2.30 RATHMAM SELLING HURDLE (€3,071; 2m) (10 runners)

1 00-4 HENRY WELFARE 676 (D) 5-11-12 J. P. Ryan
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4.50 BINKERED FIRST TIME
CARLISLE: 2.20 Sky Lady. 2.50 Dowler Hill. 3.20 Cheep Knight. David's Way. 4.50 David Steve.

5.25 ST JOHN AMBULANCE NOVICES HURDLE (€2,885; 2m) (8 runners)

1 00-4 TRAMONTANA 27 (D) 5-11-12 J. P. Ryan
2 00-4 TRAMONTANA 27 (D) 5-11-12 J. P. Ryan

4.50 3RD YEAR OF THE BETTY AND HERBERT CASSELL MEMORIAL CHASE (€4,660; 2m 5f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 00-11 TIME BOUNTY 28 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell
2 00-11 TIME BOUNTY 28 (D) 5-11-12 M. J. O'Donnell

5.25 ST JOHN AMBULANCE NOVICES HURDLE (€2,885; 2m) (8 runners)

1 00-4 TRAMONTANA 27 (D) 5-11-12 J. P. Ryan
2 00-4 TRAMONTANA 27 (D) 5-11-12 J. P. Ryan



It took just one lesson for **Jennai Cox** to perform a single forward somersault

# Why one jump on a trampoline will set you bouncing

Trampolining demands grace and power: it takes effort to look sleek when soaring up to 25ft from the trampoline bed. The sheer exhilaration can be addictive. Rebound tumbling, as trampolining was once more commonly known, is a relatively new sport. Its origins lie with the Eskimos — postcards at Anchorage airport, Alaska, depict them tossing each other about on walrus skins. In Britain early this century acrobats performed comedy routines on bouncing beds and, according to circus lore, the trampoline was developed by an artist named Du Trampolin who saw potential in the trapeze safety net.

In the 1930s George Nissen, an American tumbling and diving champion, built one of the earliest trampolines in his garage for training and, soon after, entertainment. With the help of physical education experts he devised textbooks, lesson plans and training courses. The sport took off.

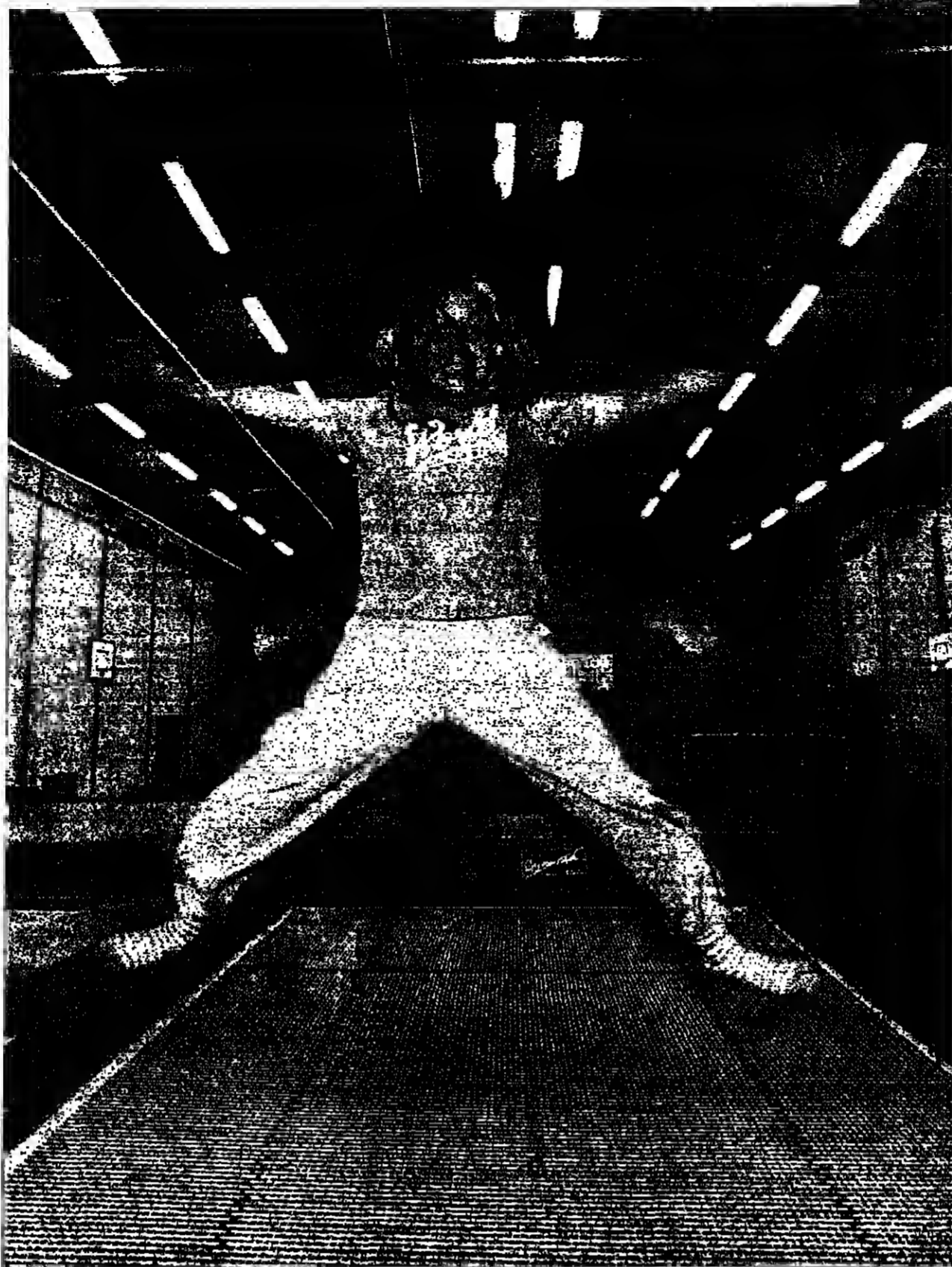
The rapid spread of trampolining to countries such as Poland, Japan, Switzerland and South Africa can be explained by its enjoyable simplicity. No special skill or physique is required to start and that first bound can be tried at any age. Two or three minutes of jumping is as good as aerobic exercise as the same time spent running and is also a form of plyometrics: according to sports scientists this type of explosive jumping develops the strength required to hold the body in flight and helps to resist the force of landings. Trampolining is also used as supplementary training by divers and gymnasts.



My 20-minute lesson, taken by Rob Walker, chief executive of the British Trampoline Federation (BTF), in Sheen Sports Centre, southwest London, incorporated some of the elements taught in the first six months. Any newcomer starts with gentle jumping and learning how to stop; bending your knees on descent. The first few minutes of bouncing was like experiencing consecutive air pockets on an aeroplane; as close as you get to the feeling of unaided flying.

But like real flying, trampolining is more technical. Since the simple somersault of the 1940s, moves have advanced to triple-twisting double somersaults. Competition moves include the barani, a seal drop with half a twist; the cody, a back somersault landing on the stomach; the fliffus, a double somersault with a twist; and the triflus, a triple somersault. Some competitors have recently managed quadruple somersaults.

I stuck to the seal drop which entailed jumping and dropping into a sitting position before standing again. This had to be done without bending my legs, making sure my bonom landed on the



Jump for joy: Fern Ellis, 9, at Sheen Sports Centre, southwest London, is one of 600,000 Britons who trampoline each week

marked cross in the middle of the trampoline while ensuring that my fingers were turned towards my pointed toes, to prevent broken wrists. It required far more concentration than I had expected. Nor was I prepared for the

complete lack of control or balance in mid-air. Trying to regain this with leg or arm movements proved hopeless. I ended up almost crashing into Walker, who sat on safety mats ahead of me. The incident did though explain why

during the Second World War American pilots and navigators used the trampoline to practise orientation and why astronauts working for the Space Flight programme use them to experience variable body positions in flight. As

Walker says, when you are throwing your body weight around, you have to be aware of everything around you.

With the help of Walker — who, at 63, still somersaults — and his son, Jeff, another trampolining coach, I was able to finish my lesson with a single forward somersault. "Well, I have never seen anyone do it like that before," I was told. "I'll be back to try again."

It was the physical benefits of trampolining realised during the war that convinced PE teachers of its possibilities. A year after Jimmy Garner became the first US champion in 1948, the first trampoline officially used for physical education was installed in Loxford School in Ilford, Essex. About 600,000 people now trampoline each week with more than 1,500 sports centres and 2,000 secondary schools holding sessions.

As a sport, trampolining requires lengthy and very methodical practice to become skilled but is still largely recreational, being suitable for anyone, including the handicapped. Despite early fears of possible dangers and injury, there have been only 17 serious accidents since 1960 and during all lessons trampolines should be surrounded by other participants, known as spotters.

The first competitions in Britain were held in the 1950s and after living under the umbrella of the Amateur Gymnastic Association the BTF was formed in 1964. After changes to the structure of competitions four years ago to allow more local events, membership of the BTF doubled to 7,000.

Internationally, trampolining has spread to more than 30 countries with Britain alongside Russia, Germany and France among the competition leaders. The next world championships take place in Vancouver in August, preceded by the national competition in Birmingham in July. Competition trampolining was first televised in Great Britain in 1988 but neither championship is likely to receive much coverage this year.

The momentum and rhythm of the slow and graceful bouncing can be felt just by watching, but the repetitive and predictable nature of competition routines, which last less than a minute, has meant that it has never caught on as a spectator sport.

The enjoyment is in doing the jumping.

For details of competitions and lessons: the British Trampoline Federation, 146 College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1BH (0181-863 7278).

## TUNE IN AND CHOOSE BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTS STAR

Tonight, Channel 4's *The Greatest* gives you the chance to vote for the Greatest British sports star here of them all. And your vote will count in more ways than one, because it could win you a pair of tickets to the European football championship or even the top prize of a trip to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson. The main aim of the series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a motor racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer. You probably won't be able to put aside your prejudices completely — we all have our heroes, and our favourite sports — but *The Greatest* will open your mind to achievements and personalities you may not otherwise have considered worthy of greatness.

Tonight is the fifth show in the 12-part series. The cases of Jackie Stewart, Linford Christie, Bobby Moore, Torvill and Dean, Mary Rand and Ian Botham of the 20 shortlisted have been stated. Each week two contenders are eliminated and their relative merits discussed by the panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Darryl Kelly, editor of *Total Sport*, and a guest celebrity (tonight it is Tony Hancock). Chaired by the debate is Gordon Kennedy. The first show will give the results and declare *The Greatest*. *The Greatest* is screened on Channel 4 on Mondays at 8.30pm and repeats on Saturdays at 10am. The sporting stars under attack tonight are Barry John and Nick Faldo. *Times* writers give their appreciations to help your judgments.

### TONIGHT'S CONTENDERS

**BARRY JOHN**  
When rugby union's historians gather at the bar and debate great stand-off halves they have seen Barry John's name will stand tall. Most would confidently assert that the Welshman was unique, both in the style of his play and the manner of his leaving the game. Everything about John was effortless. Though part of a great Welsh tradition one thinks of Cliff Jones and Willie Davies before the war, of Cliff Morgan, David Watkins and Phil Bennett post-war — none of them possessed quite the languid touch of John at the height of his powers. There seemed no strain, no obvious speed in his running, rather he ghosted past defenders who seemed rooted to the spot. His goal-kicking was the simplest of routines when compared with some of today's convoluted approaches. New Zealanders had good cause to remember him when he helped the British Isles to their only series win there, in 1971; they called him "The King", a sobriquet which, in the end, helped create his premature retirement at 27, after six years and 25 caps. The 1971 Lions were the first of rugby's touring sides from the northern hemisphere to create an impression beyond the sports' own public and life in the goldfish bowl was not for John, the West Walian who played for Cardiff. He played one more international season, created a Welsh record of 80 career points and retired to avoid the adulation which has pursued so many of the players from that golden era of the dragon.

**NICK FALDO**  
Nick Faldo's three Opens, in 1987, 1990 and 1992, and victories in the US Masters of 1989 and 1990 may seem small beer when compared with the victories in a glorious few months in 1930 in the Open and Amateur Championships of the United States and Britain by the legendary amateur, Bobby Jones, and Jack Nicklaus's 29 major championships between 1956 and 1986. Faldo's five, however, represent the best performance by a British golfer since the early days of the 20th century. Faldo's career burned fiercest during a remarkable run starting in July 1987 and ending in August 1992. In that time he not only won those five majors, but his was the most feared name in golf. Between June 1988 and August 1992 he was never worse than 19th in a major championship. He was a byword for steadiness. He made his name as a world-class professional after altering his swing in the mid-Eighties. Hitherto it had been elegant but, judged by the highest standards, rather loose and prone to failure when it was under the greatest pressure. He thought the swing change would take nine months but it actually lasted for two years. Thereafter, however, he knew he had built himself a technique that rarely let him down. There was never any doubting Faldo's courage and his performances in the singles in the Ryder Cup in the 1990s brought this home, never more so than at Oak Hill last year.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO  
You will be asked to score each sports personality in each of five categories. Each category carries a maximum of 20 points, so the total scores you give are out of a maximum of 100. The categories are:

- Achievement — for honours won and overall record
- Dominance — for quality of opposition, longevity and domination of peers
- Style — for performance, technique, sportsmanship and image
- Fortitude — for coping with pressure, will to win, self control and sporting intelligence
- Impact — charisma and transcendence

### THE PRIZES

Each week, Channel 4 and *The Times* will each be giving away a pair of tickets to the European football championship, courtesy of Carlsberg, the official beer of Euro 96, to the person who manages to match the average scores for both of that week's profiled sports personalities. In the event of a tie, a draw will take place. Ten runners up will each win a signed copy of Daley Thompson's book accompanying the series: *The Greatest* (Bloomsbury, £14.99). At the end of the series, all the weekly winners will have the chance to win the greatest prize of all — a trip to the Olympics with Daley Thompson.

### HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

By telephone: You can call *The Greatest* phone-line, on 0891 66 55 44. Lines are open from 9pm until midnight tomorrow and from 10am on Saturday, when the show is repeated, until midnight on Sunday. Calls cost 39p cheap rate, 49p at other times. By post: complete *The Times* entry form and send it to *The Greatest* Week 4, PO Box 1418, London N1 8HY to arrive by noon on Friday.

	Achievement	Dominance	Style	Fortitude	Impact	TOTAL
BARRY JOHN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NICK FALDO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name	.....					
Address	.....					
Daytime telephone	.....					

Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Usual Times competition rules apply.  
 Tick if you prefer not to receive further information from Channel 4 or *The Times*

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT  
Dealer North Love all Rubber bridge

1062	875
A084	J86
KJ873	J1065
KQJ94	Q84
Q8732	AK104
82	K73
5	A1082

W N E S  
1S All Pass Pass Pass 1H 3NT  
Contract: 3 NT by South Lead: King of spades

I held the South hand. My 3 NT bid was a crude effort — more scientific would be to bid Two Spades. However, I have a horror of getting involved in that sort of sequence, particularly at rubber bridge with a doubtful partner, where too much sophistication can lead to disastrous misunderstandings. When dummy went down, I was uncomfortably aware that I had done the wrong thing — if the clubs divide. Six Clubs makes; even if they do not, the contract will still make if diamonds are 3-3. On the king of spades, dummy played low and East played the five. I ducked and won the next spade. What should I do? Hoping to get some clues, I played off ace and king of hearts and three rounds of diamonds, on the third of which West threw a heart. I still could not tell whether he was 5-4-2-2 or 5-5-2-1, and I tried to play for clubs 2-2.

one down. Can you see an improvement?

If I trust West's carding (five, then seven of spades, indicating three), I should cross to dummy and play a third spade. If West does not cash his spades, I can subsequently lose a club to East: if he does cash them, East has to make two discards. For the moment, two hearts are safe, but then, when I subsequently play off the top hearts, East is squeezed in diamonds and clubs.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

- By Philip Howard
- AM  
A school of whales  
A tusk  
An leg
- INGLYMUS  
A unidirectional joint  
The short-eared bat  
Mild delirium tremens
- FORFEX  
A. The pincers of an earwig  
b. A proprietary toupee fixative  
c. Excommunication
- GRUNDY  
a. A variety of hornblende  
b. A cadger  
c. A conventional bigot
- Answers on page 34

## KEENE on CHESS

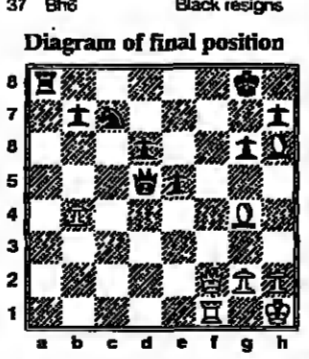
By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Teenage triumph**  
Ruth Sheldon, one of Great Britain's brightest girl players, has added an illustrious scalp to her collection. In the London Chess Centre Quick-play tournament last weekend, she inflicted a crushing defeat on Dr John Nunn, Britain's No 4 player and noted tactician.

Nunn is noted as an outstanding connoisseur of the King's Indian Defence, but, in this game, Sheldon tied him up in knots on the queenside before delivering the coup de grace. Records indicate that, at the age of 15, Sheldon is the youngest female player in the country to have defeated a grandmaster.

White: Ruth Sheldon  
Black: Dr. John Nunn  
London Chess Centre Quickplay, March 1996

- King's Indian Defence**
- |    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 1  | d4   | Nf6  |
| 2  | c4   | g6   |
| 3  | Nc3  | Bg7  |
| 4  | e4   | d6   |
| 5  | Be2  | O-O  |
| 6  | Nf3  | e5   |
| 7  | d5   | a5   |
| 8  | Be3  | Ng4  |
| 9  | Bg5  | h6   |
| 10 | h4   | Nef6 |
| 11 | Nd2  | Nh6  |
| 12 | O-O  | Qe8  |
| 13 | a3   | Bd7  |
| 14 | b3   | f5   |
| 15 | h3   | Nf7  |
| 16 | Rb1  | Bh6  |
| 17 | Bf2  | Nc5  |
| 18 | b4   | axb4 |
| 19 | axb4 | Nd4  |
| 20 | Qc2  | Qe7  |
| 21 | Nf5  | Rc8  |
| 22 | Ra1  | Bxc2 |



### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. I continue my homage to Alexander Alekhine. This position is from the game Alekhine — Feld, Tarnopol, 1916. In this position, Alekhine exploited the slight weakness of the e-square to manufacture a wonderful winning combination. Can you see how?

Solution, page 34



Up, up and away: Fern has a lesson with Jeff Walker

APRIL 8 1996



MONDAY APRIL 8 1996  
Ranatauna ready to hand over captaincy to de Silva

ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY: L'Annoisse, Guernsey...  
ROAD RUNNING: Wigfar, Reskob North...

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (AFL) Second Round...  
AMERICAN LEAGUE (NFL) Week 5...

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (MLB) Monday...  
AMERICAN LEAGUE (MLB) Monday...

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Friday...  
EUROPEAN LEAGUE (FIBA) Friday...

BOXING

HANNOVER: World Boxing Organisation...  
WORLD BOXING COUNCIL: Premier division...

FOR THE RECORD

EQUESTRIANISM

BRISTOL: Trak: First section...  
LUDGROVE SCHOOL: Swimming...

FIVES

LUDGROVE SCHOOL: Swimming...  
LUDGROVE SCHOOL: Swimming...

GOLF

ATLANTA: Georgia Men's Classic...  
SCOTTSDALE: Arizona 'The Tradition'...

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Friday...  
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (IHL) Friday...

MOTORCYCLING

LE MANS: Twenty-four hour race...  
SENTUL: Indonesian Grand Prix...

FOR THE RECORD

MOTOR RALLYING

NARBOI: Safari Rally: Final standings...  
NARBOI: Safari Rally: Final standings...

RIFLE SHOOTING

BISLEY: Easter Meeting: Final results...  
BISLEY: Easter Meeting: Final results...

ROWING

LONDON: 14th University boat race...  
LONDON: 14th University boat race...

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE...  
AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Sunday...

SCHOOL SPORT

RUGBY UNION: Schools Intermediates...  
RUGBY UNION: Schools Intermediates...

FOR THE RECORD

SHINTY

Bellmore Cup: First: Caerphilly...  
Bellmore Cup: First: Caerphilly...

SNOOKER

WYLOMOUTH: British Open: Quarter-final...  
WYLOMOUTH: British Open: Quarter-final...

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Swanton...  
PREMIER LEAGUE: Swanton...

SQUASH

HILTON HEAD: Group Two: Women's...  
HILTON HEAD: Group Two: Women's...

TABLE TENNIS

KETTERING: English Open: Men's...  
KETTERING: English Open: Men's...

FOR THE RECORD

TABLE TENNIS

KETTERING: English Open: Men's...  
KETTERING: English Open: Men's...

RUGBY UNION

Representative match...  
Representative match...

CRICKET

Day's play...  
Day's play...

CRICKET

Day's play...  
Day's play...

CRICKET

Day's play...  
Day's play...

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's fixtures including Football, Basketball, and other sports.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's fixtures including Cricket, Rugby Union, and other sports.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's fixtures including Rugby Union, Football, and other sports.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's fixtures including Football, Basketball, and other sports.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's fixtures including Football, Basketball, and other sports.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's fixtures including Cricket, Rugby Union, and other sports.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's fixtures including Rugby Union, Football, and other sports.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's fixtures including Football, Basketball, and other sports.

TOMORROW

Table of tomorrow's fixtures including Football, Basketball, and other sports.

TOMORROW

Table of tomorrow's fixtures including Cricket, Rugby Union, and other sports.

TOMORROW

Table of tomorrow's fixtures including Rugby Union, Football, and other sports.

TOMORROW

Table of tomorrow's fixtures including Football, Basketball, and other sports.



PLANNING A  
**BUSINESS**  
 IN 1996?  
 LOOKING FOR AN



(without affecting your day)

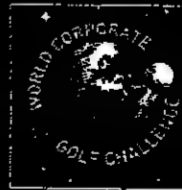
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No maintenance in assignment

Camdex International Ltd v Bank of Zambia

Before Mr Justice Neill, Lord Justice Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse... The assignment of a bona fide debt by its owner, in accordance with section 136 of the Law of Property Act 1925, was not invalid even if the assignee was not intended to recover it...

Central Bank of Kuwait assigned absolutely to the plaintiffs the debts due under the 1988 agreement and that the plaintiffs had given written notice of the assignment to the defendant and that they had accordingly become entitled to the payment of the debt to them...

Mr Timothy Walker, QC and Mr Richard Handyside for the defendant Mr Mark Howard for the plaintiffs... LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that the defendant did not dispute its indebtedness to the Central Bank of Kuwait or the amount of the debt...

Law Report April 8 1996

Vicarious liability insurance lawful

Lancashire County Council v Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Thorpe... It was not contrary to public policy for local authorities and chief constables to insure against their vicarious liability to pay damages, including exemplary damages, for the criminal acts of employees or police officers...

Services Ltd [1993] QB 507, 528-529... Even if "compensation" could and would otherwise be construed to include exemplary damages, so to construe it would be contrary to public policy... The relevant term of the policy, when read with an attached endorsement, was agreed to be...

the commission of a crime and no one could insure himself against liability for criminal conduct... Second, an award of exemplary damages was designed to punish and deter public policy should accordingly preclude anyone liable for such an award from being entitled to indemnity against it...

First, there appeared a number of different policy considerations to play, not by any means all pointing in the same direction... While it was true that to allow a defendant liable for exemplary damages to be held harmless against them by insurance must undoubtedly reduce the deterrent and punitive effect of the order upon him, it would greatly improve the plaintiffs' prospects of recovering the sum awarded...

Default interest increase is not a penalty

Lordsvale Finance plc v Bank of Zambia

Before Mr Justice Colman... A provision in an agreement for a prospective modest increase in the rate of default interest was not a penalty... MR JUSTICE COLMAN said he considered that the defendant's default interest, that in as much as the constituents of default interest included an unexplained 1 per cent in addition to the margin and the cost of obtaining dollar deposits to fund the bank's participation, the 1 per cent was a penalty...

While fully accepting that the English cases could hardly be described with justification as a long line of authority and that none of the authorities was notable for its clarity of analysis, such authority as there was did suggest that at least on three occasions since IT2S the courts had been prepared to enforce increased rates of interest or analogous payments where the increases applied from the date of default...

London was one of the greatest centres of international banking in the world and one in which, as well as in New York, most of the world's international bank loans were set up... In his Lordship's judgment, weak as the English authorities were, there was every reason in principle for adopting the course which they suggested and for confining protection of the creditor by means of designation of default interest provisions as penalties to retrospectively operating provisions...

erated in that nation which was the other major participant in the trade in question... For there to be disparity between the law applicable in London and New York on the point would be of great disservice to international banking... In his Lordship's judgment, weak as the English authorities were, there was every reason in principle for adopting the course which they suggested and for confining protection of the creditor by means of designation of default interest provisions as penalties to retrospectively operating provisions...

Documents request was too wide

Forrester v British Railways Board

In an action resulting from a child's fatal fall from a moving train, British Railways Board could not be ordered to make available to the plaintiff documentation that included all its fatal and non-fatal accident reports nor its reports on accidents concerning the door-locking mechanism, design, maintenance and safety... The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Aldous and Sir Iain Gledhill) so held on February 16 dismissing an inter-locutory appeal by Jeannie Forrester from the refusal by Judge Pheasant, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court in April 1995, of her application for specific discovery of seven classes of documents from British Railways Board...

that the plaintiff sought documents concerning all maintenance, repairs and service records on all doors on all Inter-City trains; reports on incidents involving the opening of doors while trains were in motion, by they sides or not; information on failures of all doors, hinge equipment and securing devices; and reports of claims by passengers or staff who had fallen from moving trains... The wording of the request was staggering. The judge, concluding it to be oppressive, suggested a sensible way forward: that the plaintiff's expert should look at two recent independent reports by Knight Wending and by the Health and Safety Executive, which dealt with the problem of doors opening, set out statistics and contained recommendations. Thereafter the plaintiff could be advised as to the documents necessary for her case.

Charter-party cannot displace rule of domicile

Samson Co SA v NV Petrofina SA and Another (The World Hitachi Zosen)

Before Mr Justice Langley... In contractual disputes an expressly worded agreement was needed to displace the general jurisdiction rule of domicile under the 1968 Brussels Convention, scheduled to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982... MR JUSTICE LANGLEY said that the World Hitachi Zosen was involved in a collision while en route from Kharg Island, Iran to Rotterdam. There was a fire and explosion. General average was declared and the cargo was transhipped to another vessel to complete the voyage to Rotterdam... The plaintiffs submitted their claim to special jurisdiction in clause 36 of the charter-party, incorporated in the bill of lading, where the words "general average shall be... adjusted to London" constituted an agreement whereby disputes about general average contribution were to be settled in the United Kingdom rather than in Belgium which was the defendants' country of domicile...

average contribution were to be settled in the United Kingdom rather than in Belgium which was the defendants' country of domicile... In support of that, it was contended that the word "adjusted" meant "settled or paid" and that London was therefore the place of performance of the obligation giving rise to special jurisdiction as required by article 5(1) of the Brussels Convention... Further, the wording of the clause was sufficient to bring the case within article 17 of the Convention whereby such an agreement to establish special jurisdiction might be evidenced in writing, or in a form which accorded with commercial usage regularly observed by parties to contracts of the type involved in the particular trade or commerce concerned... The defendants contended that "adjusted" normally meant "computed or assessed"; that the custom and practice of adjusters acting as a clearing house for claims was a matter of convenience not obligation; and that it was always open to the parties to agree expressly on place of payment and jurisdiction which they had not...

Justifying purchase

Thomas v Secretary of State for Wales and Another

A local authority did not have to demonstrate that it required to carry out works on all parts of land subject to a compulsory purchase order to justify an acquisition under section 89 of the National Land Act 1945... MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON said that the object of section 89 was to allow a local authority to purchase land which was unsightly, neglected or derelict to put it to use. The authority's proposed use was to clear and stabilise the area and make it a heritage site... The wording of section 89(2), as substituted by section 3(1) of the Derelict Land Act 1982, permitted the acquiring authority to perform "such works on that land or any other land as appears to them expedient" where there were works that had to be done to other land within the scope of the compulsory purchase order that land or any other land as appears to them expedient... The objective for the site could not be ignored when considering the component parts.

which was unsightly, neglected or derelict to put it to use. The authority's proposed use was to clear and stabilise the area and make it a heritage site. They approached the land as an integral area and the scheme comprehended all three pieces of land... The wording of section 89(2), as substituted by section 3(1) of the Derelict Land Act 1982, permitted the acquiring authority to perform "such works on that land or any other land as appears to them expedient" where there were works that had to be done to other land within the scope of the compulsory purchase order that land or any other land as appears to them expedient... The objective for the site could not be ignored when considering the component parts.

Penal notice absent

Cleveland County Council v L and Others

In the absence of a penal notice, the court would not impose a sentence of imprisonment for breach of a court order to abstain from an act where there was no evidence that the possibility of imprisonment for contempt had been drawn to the contemnor's attention... The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Gibson) so held on March 14 allowing an appeal by L against a sentence of six months imprisonment for contempt imposed by Judge Bryant in Preston County Court on November 20, 1995 for breach of an order of Mr Justice Kirkwood barring him from specified premises... LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL said that under Order 45, rule 7 of the Rules of the Supreme Court the court had a discretion to dispense with the requirement that a penal notice should have been prominently displayed on an order requiring a person to abstain from an act... But Order 45, rule 7(b) required that in the absence of service of an order the person against whom it was made must have been present when it was made or have been notified of its terms. The order had not been served and there was no evidence that the applicant had been told what the consequences of breach would be.

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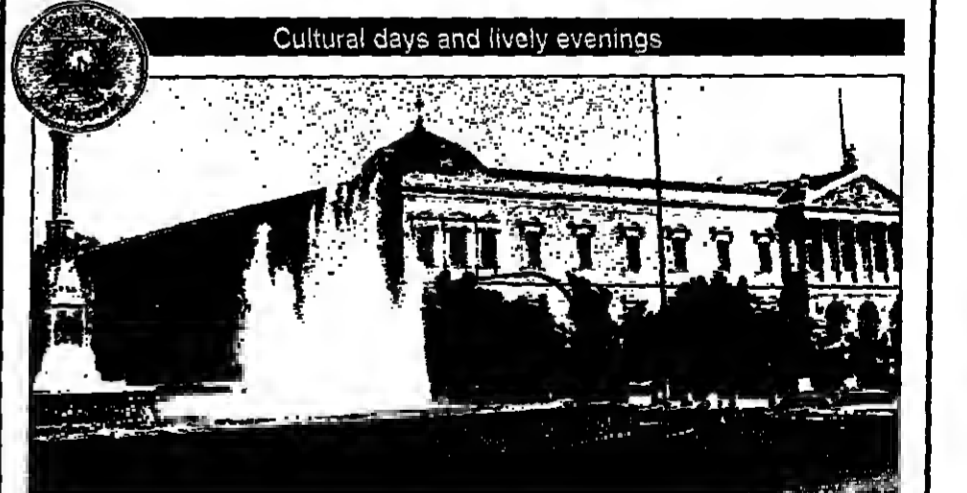
Sport anti-doping code not unfair

Wilander and Another v Tobin and Another

In the context of the International Tennis Federation's anti-doping code, contained in rule 53 of the ITF Rules and the French Protocol incorporated therein, it was neither unfair nor unreasonable that rule 53 reversed the normal burden of proof by requiring a player who had prima facie tested positive for drugs to prove his innocence on a balance of probabilities... The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse) so held on March 26, dismissing an appeal by Jean Arne Olof Wilander and Karel Novacek against Mr Justice Lightman's refusal on March 19 to restrain Brian Tobin, president and David Judge, honorary treasurer of the ITF, from continuing with or acting upon proceedings against the appellants by reference to rule 53 of the federation rules... MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN in the Chancery Division had cited Consh v Onslow Fane (The Times June 26, 1975, CA) and Gasser v Stinson (unreported, June 15, 1988) and said that he could see nothing approaching unfairness or unreasonableness in the wording or procedure of the International Tennis Federation Rules... LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appellants had not shown an arguable case that the ITF were in fundamental breach of contract, or that rule 53 was unfair or unreasonable and therefore void as being in unlawful restraint of trade, or that the anti-doping procedures followed by the ITF and its review board were so defective as to entitle the court to grant an interlocutory injunction restraining further proceedings by its appeal committee... It was important that the rules of international sporting bodies like the ITF should be absolutely clear and most carefully drafted to avoid the possibility of confusion and doubt... Different sporting bodies should, as far as possible, adopt in their rules common practices for drug testing.

and David Judge, honorary treasurer of the ITF, from continuing with or acting upon proceedings against the appellants by reference to rule 53 of the federation rules... MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN in the Chancery Division had cited Consh v Onslow Fane (The Times June 26, 1975, CA) and Gasser v Stinson (unreported, June 15, 1988) and said that he could see nothing approaching unfairness or unreasonableness in the wording or procedure of the International Tennis Federation Rules... LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the appellants had not shown an arguable case that the ITF were in fundamental breach of contract, or that rule 53 was unfair or unreasonable and therefore void as being in unlawful restraint of trade, or that the anti-doping procedures followed by the ITF and its review board were so defective as to entitle the court to grant an interlocutory injunction restraining further proceedings by its appeal committee... It was important that the rules of international sporting bodies like the ITF should be absolutely clear and most carefully drafted to avoid the possibility of confusion and doubt... Different sporting bodies should, as far as possible, adopt in their rules common practices for drug testing.

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champagne to Black...



**W**hen I was young, going to work for a building society meant a dull future but a secure one — a few years behind a counter, a few in head office doing the accounts, a few more in head office doing precious little at all and a comfortable retirement.

Now the counter clerks and accountants are being sacked in their thousands. Meanwhile, Peter Robinson, who is no longer with the Woolwich, has twitched aside the curtain and shown just what rewards might be available to those who claw their way to the top. Those counter clerks are being sacrificed because building societies have taken to cutting each other's throats and those of the banks, and vice versa. This is called the benefits of a competitive market.

So much for housing. Another basic necessity of life was threatened with the same benefits last week, the Government having decided to extend its enormously successful plans for gas and electricity, which threaten disaster for both, into water.

Various doubts immediately emerge. Yorkshire Water, for one, had better not be too zealous about going for new customers elsewhere, although I suppose its skills in shipping the stuff around in tanks might usefully be contracted out to other companies. The whole exercise is marked by the political spin-doctors as a way of getting back at the "fat cats". This implies the naive belief that we will place our orders with the supplier that pays its

## Can't pay? Then you will have to pay more

executives least, thereby entrusting our business to the management statistically pre-selected to be the industry's worst.

There is also consumer inertia. Knock on any door in the country and offer to cut the telephone bill by 10 or 15 per cent, and you will receive a dusty response. I know this because that is just what the cable phone companies have been doing, and little job they have had of it. A former colleague of mine used to spend many a happy hour plugged into his home computer fiddling with his various savings and bank accounts on a virtually a daily basis to maximise the interest. Doubtless he made a few pennies; most of us cannot be bothered, and the same goes for finding cheaper insurance — or cheaper water, cheaper gas or cheaper electricity, I suspect.

But when you look at the fun being had in bringing competition into the last two areas, you wonder if ministers are already in a hole and digging furiously — and in danger of fracturing a water main. Last week we learnt that such is the disarray in the national pipeline system that British Gas and the independent suppliers cannot agree



between them just how much is in the system. The pilot scheme to introduce 500,000 householders in the South West to a fully-competitive market this summer is three or four months behind schedule, and the week's news does not inspire confidence for this, or the coming of a countrywide competitive market over the next two years.

The 1998 deadline for full competition for electricity is in similar disarray. The industry has fallen out, not for the first time, but now over the systems being introduced to allow settlement of customers' bills. But assume that it all works, and that one day we each have a parcel

of water, power and gas suppliers offering cheap deals. Prices will fall — but perhaps not for everyone. There is a theory gaining ground called the social cost of distribution, which says that the rich will get the low bills and the poor the high ones. This is because there is nothing in the rules to stop the new entrants cherry-picking the better-off consumers and offering them the cheapest rates.

Any utility knows that 15 to 20 per cent of its customers struggle to pay their bills at some point. These are the Can't Pays, not the Won't Pays, who are very few, or the Forgot to Pays, which includes nearly all of us at one time or another. These people are incredibly expensive to service. The practice of disconnection has largely died out. Can't Payers are now offered debt counselling — this is the 1950s, remember — pre-payment meters and other such help. The meters are expensive to install, the rest takes up administrative time. As a result, a poor household costs £50 per year more to supply with electricity than a well-off one — on an average annual bill of £300 or so.

Power companies already discriminate as far as they are allowed

to offering a better rate to those who pay by direct debit and a worse rate for pre-payment meters. But neither they nor British Gas are allowed to refuse to supply anyone just because they have a dodgy credit record.

The new suppliers coming into the market, and they include hard-nosed retailers such as Sainsbury and Tesco, can do just that. They can ensure their customer base is stripped of the Can't Payers, or even the A Bit Tight This Monthers. They can use demographic data, restricting themselves to the more prosperous neighbourhoods. Or they can offer individual and less favourable terms to bad credit risks — a £500 deposit, for example, a sum out of the reach of poor families.

The less profitable customers will have to stay with the existing suppliers. Because they are more expensive to service, those firms' margins will suffer, or they will have to play the same game. They cannot by law charge higher tariffs per unit of gas or power for those less able to pay. But there are ways of discriminating further against the poor, such as raising the cost of pre-paid metering while forcing more of them to take it.

Some in the industry have already sounded a warning about the dangers of the social cost of distribution, and these warnings are now soaking through to the attention of the Labour Party. It is a complex subject to hammer into a 15-second soundbite. But it is an important one.

# Decision day looms for Lloyd's

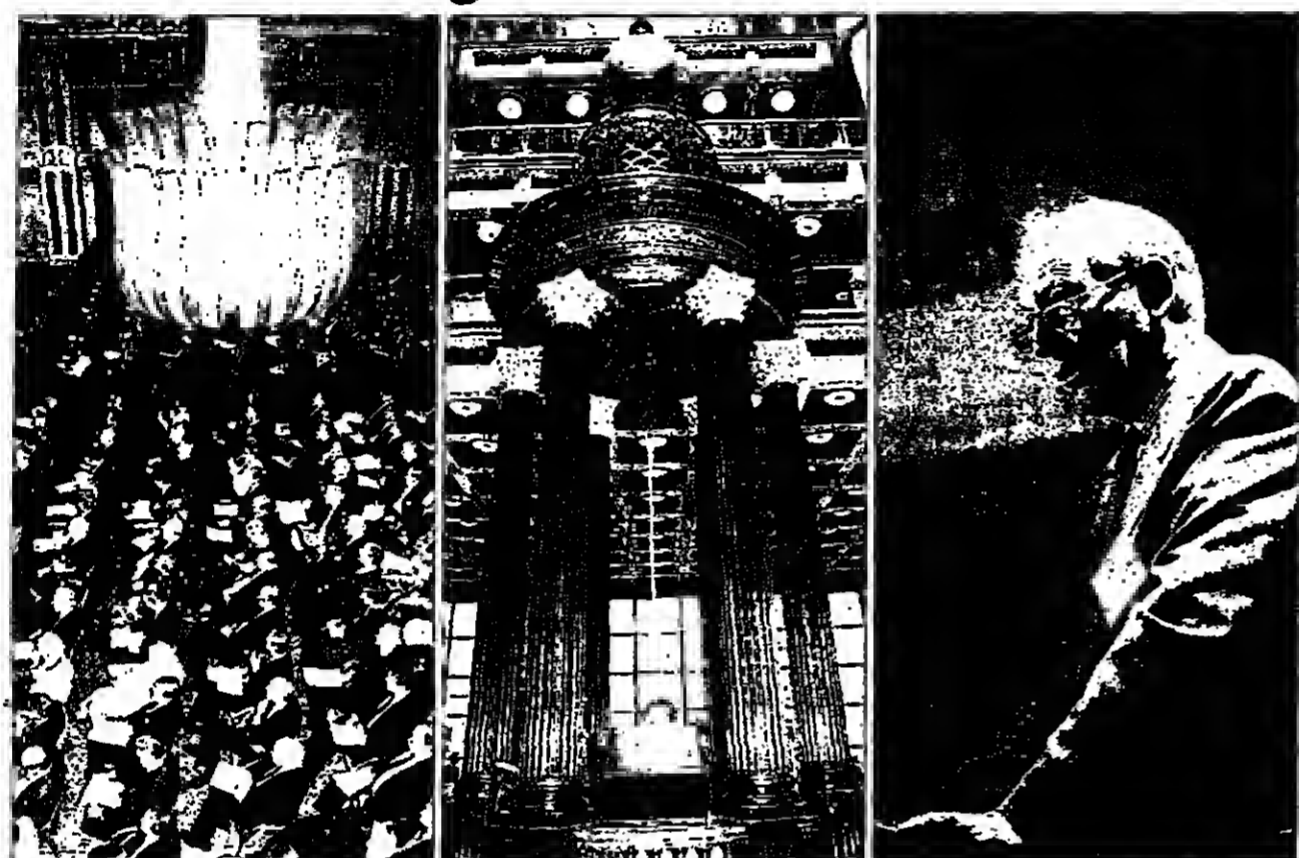
As Lloyd's names assess a critique of its rescue plan, Sarah Bagnall considers the way ahead

**I**n July, more than 34,000 people may make the most important decision of their lives. Will they accept or reject Lloyd's of London's settlement offer, currently £2.8 billion? Whichever way names jump, the outcome will have severe ramifications not only for the financial predicament in which each now stands, but for countless others. The problem for many names is knowing what to do.

Lloyd's proposes that names pay a "reinsurance" premium to a specially formed reinsurance company to offload their liabilities relating to risks insured before 1993. Many of these debts relate to asbestosis and pollution claims from the US and were underwritten as long ago as the 1960s.

To encourage names to agree to the plan, the insurance market has collected £2.8 billion, which is being distributed among names to try to cut the premiums for every name to affordable levels.

If names accept the offer, they will obtain a degree of "finality" and be able to resign from the market and walk away. Furthermore, the



The world of names, the Lutine Bell and Sir David Berriman, leader of Lloyd's members, face major changes

estates of deceased names will be able to be closed and assets distributed. At present, a name cannot leave the market if in syndicates exposed to unquantifiable loss.

In return, names give up their rights to litigate against a mass of possible targets, such as members' agents and managing agents. This is because

the insurers of these parties are contributing to the settlement package and, as a result, have effectively offered an out-of-court settlement.

Many names are unsure whether to accept the offer, and — as some see it — let Lloyd's off the hook, or whether to dismiss the offer in preference for the unknown and so forgo the chance of having their debts capped. There is no definitive answer.

Various players, such as the Lloyd's Names Associations' Working Party, have put forward alternative plans to that of Lloyd's, claiming that they are "better" for names. We now enter the grey and shifting world of the hypothetical.

It is impossible to impose laboratory conditions on the insurance market and conclude that the mixture of 34,000 names, X units of lawsuits and Y units of cash will result in Z. This inability arises from the incoherent nature of Lloyd's and inability to look into the future and ascertain what actions the various parties will take or the outcome of many potential legal claims.

As a result, assessing alternatives to Lloyd's Reconstruction and Renewal Plan is far from easy. This task has, however, been tackled by Slaughter and May, a firm of solicitors. The Lloyd's Settlement Validation Steering Group, chaired by Sir David Berriman, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members, commissioned from the firm the report into alternatives to R&R that was delivered at the weekend. The report recognises the size of its task, saying: "It is... [a] consequence of the complexity of the Lloyd's system that persuasive alternative arguments will always be available."

However, the stark conclusion of the 50-page report is: "If Lloyd's ceases to carry on business, it is unlikely that any set-

tlement of the Lloyd's community will be better off." It emphasises that this remark is not advice that names accept Lloyd's offer and that they must make their own decisions.

The report considers likely consequences if Lloyd's went into run-off — when the market ceases to underwrite new business. There would be no premium income. The market's cash flow would dry up. The result would be no cash to pay claims or expenses, with the situation worsened by a possible rush by policyholders to enforce or secure claims.

Furthermore, the Lloyd's Central Fund would no longer be available to cover names' losses, because Lloyd's would have to retain its funds to meet its own debts, such as the burden of Lionover, in which liabilities of the PCW syndicates were reinsured.

American policyholders would probably renew efforts to establish pre-answer bonds, whereby a claimant can make an insurer put up money for the full sum claimed before the legal action is heard. It is also likely that Lloyd's American trust funds would be frozen, making assets held in the US unavailable to meet claims.

The inter-dependence of names means that many solvent ones would become insolvent because a managing agent would not be able to pay out claims lodged against an insolvent name. As a result, the Department of Trade and Industry will bar a solvent name from continuing reinsurance as an asset if that reinsurance is provided by an insolvent name. Given the web of reinsurance between syndicates, knock-on effects would trap many names.

The LNAMP argues that the managing agent will be able to pay out claims relating to insolvent names. However, un-

certainty over the legality of such a move would probably cause inertia. In consequence, the whole market would freeze and not money could leave it. What is more likely is that the DTI could demand that names pump substantial sums of money into the system to cover their potential liabilities.

Slaughter and May says the basic question is whether run-off would cost names more than R&R, and answers: "It is difficult not to conclude that run-off would probably lead to increased expense and difficulties for names. Syndicates would not be able to close and names would be trapped until all their liabilities had been met."

If names were asked to inject more funds into a collapsed Lloyd's, many might refuse and form action groups to resist any attempts to recover their assets. They could test an LNAMP theory, called Dead Man's Stop. This is the argument that the policyholder's claim is against those names who were on the syndicate when the risk was insured, which, in the case of asbestosis, could be 30 years ago.

As a result, a policyholder has to pursue his claim with those original names, many of whom may be dead or lacking adequate assets. Dead names' estates would be reopened and beneficiaries pursued for the assets. Though it is not stated

in the report, a policyholder has the right, if an estate's assets are inadequate, to pursue its trustees and executors. This is causing worry in the legal and accounting professions.

The policyholder will progress down the chain of syndicate years through the reinsurance to close process, pulling thousands of resigned names back into the frame. When it finally landed at the door of the present-day syndicate's names, the claim will have swelled by the loading on its costs.

The LNAMP argues, however, that present-day names would obtain finality because the policyholder would be unable to work his way down the chain. What is more likely, according to Slaughter and May, is that Lloyd's would not let one group of names breach their obligations to another group of names. This obligation arises from the reinsurance to close process. Policyholders are not likely to let names pull this stunt either, and would probably form an action group to fight their case.

The report also considers whether there are other ways to obtain finality for names, and if so, how they compare with the proposed method. The report looks at statutory finality: Dead Man's Stop; avoiding liability on grounds of fraud; avoiding liability on grounds of material non-disclosure; and the *Clemençon* case.

It concludes: "We are unable to think of a better form of finality, for the generality of names, than that offered by the proposed reinsurance into Equitas." That is in spite of recognising that it is not true finality — but is the same as the finality offered to names through the normal reinsurance to close process anyway. That is, liability reverts to them if the reinsurance is inadequate.

Overall, the alternatives do not look enticing. However, the report says: "There will undoubtedly be some names who remain so angry that they do not care whether Lloyd's survives or not. This is why more than £2.8 billion may be required for the R&R proposals to achieve acceptance... in our view, it is unlikely to be in the interests of any section of the community to take Lloyd's over the edge."

The final sentence of the report says it all. Referring to the difficulty that names have in making their minds up, it says: "All we can do is to express the hope that the Council [of Lloyd's] will succeed in finding enough additional money to make it easier for each name to make that very difficult decision."

## A fan's fight for his hero

**Cinderella Man. Radio 5 Live, 10.05pm.**  
I had never heard of Paddy Monaghan, what he did for Muhammad Ali and what the boxer did for him. Ulster-born Monaghan, bare-knuckle fighter and builder's labourer, hero-worshiped Ali. When the champion was stripped of his title because of anti-Vietnam war protests, Monaghan organised a petition in Britain demanding the title return to him. A grateful Ali invited him to the US. They became close friends. At Ali's big fight, Monaghan visited the cash-strapped boxer at his home in Oxfordshire and played Santa Claus to his children. John Salghouse, Dennis Waterman and Monaghan himself tell this scarcely believable story.

**Monday Play: Uganda. Radio 4, 7.45pm.**  
The imagined sound I kept hearing as I listened to Judith Johnson's play was the rattle of drawbridges being raised and portcullises being lowered. *Uganda* is about people who can neither physically nor mentally cut themselves off from the rest of the world. The nor mentally cut, then, is the ailing widower (Ronald Pickup) whose only principal rescue is the ailing widower on his lap. He has marked out his territory and his route just as surely as his curving daughter (Bharati Patel) has marked out hers. Right up until the play's final lines, this fixing of personal borders remains the leit-motif of *Uganda*, an emotionally satisfying play. Peter Daville

**RADIO 1**  
6.50am Stereo 4.00am Charlie Jordan 5.50 Keweenaw Stereo 6.30am 1. Roadshow 12.30 Nicky Campbell 3.30 Clive Wilson, Inc Newsbeat and the 'Batman' saga 7.00 Radio 1 Sound City 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.10 Wendy Lloyd

**RADIO 2**  
6.50am Stereo 3.00am Alex Lester 6.00 Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 The Dean Mann Story 1.00pm The Marmalade and Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Malcolm Lloyd with Diana Band Day and at 8.30 Big Band 8.50 Murray Lyellton 10.00 Radio Days 10.30 The Jamieson Band 11.00 News Extra 11.30 10.00 Radio Days 10.30 The Jamieson Band 11.00 News Extra 11.30 10.00 James' Whole 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

**RADIO 3**  
6.00am On Air, Vocalist-Violin Concerto in A minor, Op 7 No 4; Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor, Op 57, Appassionata); Bax (Magnificat; Nunc dimittis); Debussy (Idylla, Images); Smetana (The Peasants' Dance, 1, except); Mozart (Symphony No 41 in C, K 551)

**RADIO 4**  
6.00am News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer to the Day 6.30 Today Inc 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Tip from Women Gardeners 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week. Mikeyn Bragg is joined by Minsie Martin, David Attenborough, Howard Jacobson, Russell Stannard and Michael Kuswiler

**RADIO 5**  
6.00am News 6.05 Start the Week. Mikeyn Bragg is joined by Minsie Martin, David Attenborough, Howard Jacobson, Russell Stannard and Michael Kuswiler

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
6.00am Morning Reports, incl 6.45 Wake Up to Wogan 8.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.55, 7.25 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl 10.25 News from Europe; 11.25 Daily News Special 12.05 Sport On The Move; FA Cup Premiership football, rugby league; Leeds v St Helens, motor racing; the first two rounds of the British Touring Car Championship 7.00 News Extra 7.05 Wembley Warrack 1970 — Chelsea v Leeds 6.00 The Monday Match, Blackburn v Newcastle 10.05 Cinderella Man, Sea Choice 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Evening Concerto, Tonight 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
6.00am News 6.05 Start the Week. Mikeyn Bragg is joined by Minsie Martin, David Attenborough, Howard Jacobson, Russell Stannard and Michael Kuswiler

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6.00am News 6.05 Start the Week. Mikeyn Bragg is joined by Minsie Martin, David Attenborough, Howard Jacobson, Russell Stannard and Michael Kuswiler

**WORLD SERVICE**  
All times in BST. 5.00am News 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 News 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Soundbyte 7.30 Andy Kersey 8.00 News 8.15 Off the Top 8.30 Vintage Chart Show 9.00 News in German 9.15 Five Tuning 9.45 Mastertunes 10.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Anytime Goes 10.48 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.00 News 12.30 Omnibus 1.00 News in German 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Anytime Goes 1.45 News 2.00 News 2.30 News 3.00 News 3.30 News 4.00 News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 News 6.00 News 6.10 World Today 6.25 Take Five 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.30 In Good Voice 8.00 News 8.30 News 9.01 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Multitrack Hit List 10.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Medicine Cabinet 10.45 Anytime Goes 11.00 News 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sports Roundup Midnight News 12.00am Take Five 12.15 Record News 12.30 Multitrack Hit List 1.00 News 1.30 Global Concerns 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 News 2.30 Outlook 2.50 World of Faith 3.00 News 3.30 Mendon 4.00 News 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Europe Today

**CLASSIC FM**  
4.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 The Hall of Fame 7.30 7.30 Calcutty Choir (1) 8.00 Evening Concerto (1) Richard (Pomp and Circumstances March No 1 in D), Bruch (Scottish Fantasy) 10.00 Michael Tippett 1.00am Mel Cooper

**VIRGIN RADIO**  
6.00am News 6.05 Start the Week. Mikeyn Bragg is joined by Minsie Martin, David Attenborough, Howard Jacobson, Russell Stannard and Michael Kuswiler

**RADIO 3**  
6.00am On Air, Vocalist-Violin Concerto in A minor, Op 7 No 4; Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor, Op 57, Appassionata); Bax (Magnificat; Nunc dimittis); Debussy (Idylla, Images); Smetana (The Peasants' Dance, 1, except); Mozart (Symphony No 41 in C, K 551)

**RADIO 4**  
6.00am News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer to the Day 6.30 Today Inc 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Tip from Women Gardeners 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week. Mikeyn Bragg is joined by Minsie Martin, David Attenborough, Howard Jacobson, Russell Stannard and Michael Kuswiler

**RADIO 5**  
6.00am News 6.05 Start the Week. Mikeyn Bragg is joined by Minsie Martin, David Attenborough, Howard Jacobson, Russell Stannard and Michael Kuswiler

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
6.00am Morning Reports, incl 6.45 Wake Up to Wogan 8.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.55, 7.25 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl 10.25 News from Europe; 11.25 Daily News Special 12.05 Sport On The Move; FA Cup Premiership football, rugby league; Leeds v St Helens, motor racing; the first two rounds of the British Touring Car Championship 7.00 News Extra 7.05 Wembley Warrack 1970 — Chelsea v Leeds 6.00 The Monday Match, Blackburn v Newcastle 10.05 Cinderella Man, Sea Choice 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Evening Concerto, Tonight 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
6.00am News 6.05 Start the Week. Mikeyn Bragg is joined by Minsie Martin, David Attenborough, Howard Jacobson, Russell Stannard and Michael Kuswiler

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**TOURIST RATES**

Bank Rate	5.7500	181.50
Bank Buy	5.7000	180.50
Bank Sell	5.8000	182.50
Japan Yen	177.50	181.50
Malta	0.591	0.596
Netherlands Gld	2.950	2.910
New Zealand \$	2.38	2.18
Norway Kr	10.38	9.28
Portugal Esc	204.00	225.00
Spain Ps	167.5	167.5
South Afr R	8.78	9.98
Sweden Kr	158.20	153.50
Switzerl Sfr	1.58	1.78
Taiwan \$	115.00	106.50
USA \$	1.624	1.694

Notes for small denomination currencies as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates at close of trading Thursday.

**Answers from page 30**

**GAM**  
Oddy (a), (b) and (c), all three definitions are correct. The school of whales gam probably comes from some Old Scandinavian word for game or play. The task gam is said (unpersuasively) to be onomatopoeic, presumably from the noise made by pumping, clumping or eating noisily. The leg gam comes from the Old French *gambé*, the northern form of *jambe* = a leg.

**GINGLYMUS**  
(a) A diarthrodial joint having some likeness to a hinge, in that its motion is only in two directions, as the elbow-joint. From the Greek for a hinge: "The knee, the largest and most complex ginglymus joint in the body."

**FORFEX**  
(a) A pair of pincers on an earwig or other insect. A pair of anal organs, which open and shut transversely, and cross each other. Also, in humorous pedantic mode, a pair of scissors. Prissy little Pope, so pleased with himself. *The Rape of the Lock*, 1712-4: "The peer now spreads the glittering forfex wide, / To inclose the lock."

**GRUNDY**  
(c) The surname of an imaginary personage (*Mrs Grundy*) who is proverbially referred to as a personification of the tyranny of social opinion in matters of conventional propriety. Suffolk woman. From Tom Morton's play, *Speed the Plough*, 1798. In the first scene Mrs Ashfield shows herself very jealous of neighbour Grundy, and farmer Ashfield says to her: "Be quiet, woe'er! Always dig digging Dame Grundy into my ears — What will Mrs Grundy say? What will Mrs Grundy think?"

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
1. N7f Kd7 2. Qze4! Kg6 (2... Kxe6 3. Ng5 is mate, or 2... Kf5 3. Ng5 is decisive) 3. g4 and mate follows

**FREQUENCY GUIDE**  
RADIO 1. FM 87.8-89.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 198 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100.0-102.0. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1080. Virgin and radio listings compiled by Peter Deak, Ian Higgs, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson



# Why are the British always the bad guys?

Unfortunately, there's no special term for the Uncle Toms of British Equity who play Hollywood's villains, but unless somebody starts naming calling soon ("Sheriff of Nottingham", our national self-esteem will be permanently done for. I have never used the expression "married only by", but there's always a first time: last night's *Gulliver's Travels* (Channel 4) was brilliant, compelling and witty, marred only (ouch) by its decision to cast the Lilliputians (absurd, tiny, wartlike as Brits, and the Brobdingnagians (awesome, peace-loving, soft-voiced as Americans. When John Sullivan's *Over Here* actually joined in this Brit-bashing later in the evening (in a funny old sort of a way) coincidence compounded paranoia. Good grief, everybody is out to get us. Even we are out to get us.

In all other respects, however, the Easter weekend of drama was

clearly the high point of the year. Anybody who thought they could concentrate on scrubbing foam out of their fingernails was, alas, in for a heavy time losing in front of the telly wiping tears out of their eyes, and stuffing cheap milk chocolate down their necks. Most notably, Good Friday had *Eskimo Day* (BBC1). Jack Rosenhal's delicate comedy about parents scolding their teenagers to Cambridge interviews. It was holiday drama par excellence (and I've never said that before either).

*Eskimo Day* sometimes looked in danger of running out of steam, but instead it achieved something really remarkable, with an emotional climax that seemed daringly Experimentalist. It all happened in a manipulative instant. As Maurice Lipman watched her son wave goodbye — at the exact point when she knew she had lost him — director Peter Haggard pulled that corny old zoom-in-dolly-out effect



Lynne Truss

equivalent of zoom-in-dolly-out. The device here was simple: Gulliver (Ted Danson) returns from all his four voyages at once, having been absent many years. He is considered mad, because he keeps insisting he's not little people and big people. As he tells his story, he zigzags between past and present with alarming ease, his confused mental worlds overlapping when (for instance) he gets a drink off a table he's describing his heroic underwater capture of a mermaid, or when huge ears of wheat erupt through splintered floorboards between his legs, returning him forcibly to a Brobdingnagian cornfield. Each transition is astonishing, well-judged and beautifully prepared.

Ted Danson is a revelation — and to be serious for a minute, he looks lovely with the long hair and the frock coat. Whether Jonathan Swift would recognise his book is hard to say. His nose-

pinching disgust of humanity has been silently removed (this Gulliver does not scramble over the monstrous nipples of the Brobdingnagian women, noticing hairs dangling like ropes). Such niceness poses an interesting problem for tonight, obviously, if Gulliver is to encounter the Yahoos.

Where was I? Oh yes, "married only by". Like *Gulliver*, John Sullivan's *Over Here* (BBC1) concludes tonight. Like *Gulliver*, it's expensive drama with special effects, this time involving dogfights and comic, devastating enemy fire on East Anglian air bases during the war — which is funny or not, depending on whether it's serious.

*Over Here* was a bit slow to get going, and the American scenes were uniformly terrible — especially the Yank idealist listening to radio reports of the war, and vowing to volunteer. Perhaps John

Sullivan (*Only Fools and Horses*) is just better at cynicism — which is where all the jokes came from. Meanwhile Martin Clunes and Sam West were both excellent; and Clunes, with his "funny old sort of a way" speeches ("You see, in a funny old sort of a way, I lied") has clearly thrown down a challenge to Edward Fox. It's not every day you witness history like that.

Finally, *Band of Gold* (ITV) bowed out last night after a stunning second series — deeper and bolder than the first, with quality acting right up to its boom. "Jesus I can't Andie any more!" said Geraldine James last night, but don't believe her, she's said that before. Repriced Carol Inez, who faced (Tracy) committed suicide in *Harrogate*; and brilliant Lena Headey (Culene) earned her place in the cast of the next series. "Come say iara ta Tracy," they said at the end. I wept. I did really.

### CHOICE

**Attenborough in Paradise** BBC2, 6.00pm  
You're a bird of paradise and for hundreds of years you have courted and mated in the forests of New Guinea and hardly a human being has set eyes upon you. Now comes Sir David Attenborough and a camera crew and your intimacies are recorded for all to see. But Sir David is such a nice chap and so enthusiastic that you would find it hard to begrudge him a childhood ambition. His book for birds of paradise began when he was nine. He first tried to see them in the wild in 1957 but they played hard to get and in any case the technology was primitive. He has since better fortune this time. He and his team track down 11 species, nine of which have never been filmed before. Footage of the lower birds, relatives of the birds of paradise, is no less spectacular. Even the normal high standards of wildlife programmes, this one is a treat.

**The Hypnotic World of Paul McKenna** ITV, 8.00pm  
Ordinary people are hypnotised into doing silly but harmless things, such as taking part in a spoof of *Through the Keyhole* and watching their own house being rubbished by a team of McEwan's *Mr. Bean* characters. Some of McKenna's stunts become a shade complicated for their own good. A couple who do not even know each other are persuaded they are on their honeymoon. Hardly have they got into the appropriate mood, than along comes a vamp from *EastEnders* to persuade the "husband" to be unfaithful. On a slightly more useful note, McKenna claims to be able to hypnotise people out of their phobias. It seems to work for Bobby Davro, who cannot stand spiders, while Paul Ross, who has a fear of heights, is inveigled into taking part in a high-wire act at the Blackpool circus.

**Circles of Deceit** Kalon 17, 9.00pm  
Dennis Waterman's besetubled undercover man returns for one of his occasional appearances in a thriller which is undemanding fare for a Bank Holiday. This is a drama where plot is almost everything, and a complicated plot it is, but hold on to the words "drugs" and "money laundering" and you will soon get the drift. Waterman is called in by his icy woman controller (Susan Jackman) when an army captain is murdered and, although this seems improbable, he becomes a messenger with a merchant bank. There is also the chance for a quasi-romantic encounter with the dead man's girlfriend (Saskia Wickham, taking a break from *Peak Practice*). The laundrette-infiltrated by the late Simon Cadell in his final television role. It's not one of his more testing, but he makes a smooth villain.

**The Vicar of Dibley** BBC1, 8.30pm  
Dawn French returns for an Easter one-off as the village vicar in genial conflict with her faithful parishioners. The name of Richard (Blackadder) Curtis as scriptwriter may have persuaded us for something more subversive than this amiable comic view of English village life but it is a likeable show which deserves further exposure. The juxtaposition of French, once a leader of alternative comedy, and such stalwarts of a more conventional tradition as Gary Walkden, John Burt Foster and Pauline Collins, and the inimitable Liz Skaife, has proved especially fruitful. The bonus is Emma Chambers' guileless Alice, forever baffled by the vicar's dubious jokes after the final credits. The fun tonight centres on the vicar's vicarage for Lent and something called the Dibley bunny. Peter Waymark



Dennis Waterman as Nell (9.00pm)

**9.00** *Circles of Deceit* Kalon (Teletext) (3) (6429)

**11.00** News and weather (Teletext) (3) (48601)

**11.10** Regional News (Teletext) (3) (48885)

**11.20** *Film: Double Jeopardy* 1992. A head teacher (Bruce Boddington) sees his lover (Rachel Ward) commit a murder and would prefer to sit in jail rather than face a woman who is his unsuspecting wife, a lawyer (Sela Ward), defends her in court, but he is called to give evidence. Directed by Lawrence Schiller (Teletext) (3) (720717)

**1.15am** Bushell on the Box (3) (45147)

**1.45** Customs Classified (2) (234422)

**2.35** Jones and Jerry (3) (566115)

**2.55** *Film: How to Murder a Millionaire* (1910) with Joan Rivers, Alex Rocco and Morgan Fairchild. Frilly comedy about the adventures of a parody Beverly Hills housewife. Directed by Paul Schneider (3) (62066)

**4.30** The Time... the Place (1) (3) (27259)

**5.00** An Invitation to Remember (1) (76002)

**5.30** Morning News (6) (6163)

As HTV WEST except: 5.30pm-5.45 ITN Early Evening News: Weather (891589)

### WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 12.30 ITN News: Weather (67317866)

12.45 Coronation Street (Teletext) (3) (3905717)

1.15-1.30 Cartoon (42970953)

### CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.30 ITN News: Weather (67317866)

12.45-1.20 *Stuntmasters* (7155137)

1.20-3.05 *Film: The Train Robbers* (1973) starring John Wayne, Ann Margul and Red Taylor. A western drama about an American Civil War veteran who is hired by a widow to retrieve a consignment of stolen gold and clear her family name. The assignment turns out to be a dangerous one, thanks to an armed gang and a mysterious man. Directed by Burt Kennedy (61936507)

2.35am *Film: The Jazz Singer* (1953) starring Danny Thomas, Peggy Lee and Mildred Dunnock. A re-make of the 1927 Al Jolson classic about a cantor in a synagogue yearning for the bright lights of Broadway. Directed by Michael Curtiz (732248)

4.25 *Jobfinder* (5089625)

5.20 *Asian Eye* (1313170)

### MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 12.45pm *World of Wonder* (872156)

1.15-1.30 Warner Cartoon (42970953)

5.00am *Freescreen* (76002)

### SAC

Starts: 6.30 *Fifteen to One* (80156)

7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (16427)

9.00 *Saved by the Bell: The College Years* (96088)

9.30 *New Gamesmaster* (850885)

9.55 *California Dreams* (8897682)

10.20 *Mark and Minky* (5059427)

10.50 *The Adventures of Tintin* (1235040)

11.15 *The Pink Panther* (5700137)

11.40 *Extreme* (9531934)

12.30pm *A Box Full of Stories* (83345)

1.00 *Sit Mel Thrain* (11514)

1.30 *Travelog Treks* (33886)

2.00 *The Greatest* (6717)

2.30 *Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park and Fairhouse* (81074243)

4.25 *Terrytoons* (554377)

4.30 *Fruity Stories* (872)

5.00 *5 Pump: Pwt a Pardur* (7069)

5.30 *Fifteen to One* (224)

6.00 *Newyddion 6* (526750)

6.10 *Goreudn Dudley* (978653)

6.30 *Popol Y Cwm* (8812655)

7.25 *Taru Naw* (135940)

8.00 *Jabaw* (8653)

8.30 *Newyddion* (515311)

8.45 *Hidden Kingdoms* (726224)

9.45 *Spurio* (6161224)

11.05 *Roseanne* (278885)

11.35 *NYPD Blue* (836330)

12.30am *Film: A Kiss (1956)*, Robert Aldrich's drama starring Jack Palance, Eddie Albert and Lee Marvin (83977)

6.30am *Fifteen to One* (Teletext) (80156)

7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (16427)

9.00 *Saved by the Bell: The College Years* (1745856)

9.30 *New Gamesmaster* (1) (850885)

9.55 *California Dreams* (1) (8897682)

10.20 *Mark and Minky* (1) (5059427)

10.50 *Tintin* (1) (1235040)

11.15 *The Pink Panther Show* (1) (5700137)

11.40 *Extreme* (1) (9531934)

12.30pm *Film: The Homecoming* (1971) with Patricia Neal, Richard Thomas and Edgar Bergen. The pilot for the long-running television series. Directed by Michael Curtiz (61936507)

2.15 *My Green Crocodile* (83797345)

2.30 *Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park and Fairhouse* (1) (81074243)

2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.15 *From Kempton Park and the 3.55* (Jameson Irish Grand National) from Fairhouse (5) (67224). Followed by News summary and weather

4.30 *Fifteen to One* (Teletext) (80156)

4.55 *The Big Breakfast* (1) (16427)

6.00 *Gulliver's Travels*. The conclusion of the adaptation of Jonathan Swift's classic novel (Teletext) (3) (14803069)

7.50 *Cezanne Private View*. The art collector and jazz singer George Melly, the writer and critic Sarah Kent tour the Cezanne exhibition at the Tate Gallery in London and deliver their verdict on the works displayed (Teletext) (188638)

8.20 *The Greatest*. Profiles of the legendary golfer Nick Faldo and champion golfer Nick Faldo (Teletext) (3) (140069)

8.50 *Film: A River Runs Through It* (1992) with Craig Sheffer, Brad Pitt and Tom Skerritt. A drama about two separate brothers and their Montana Presbyterian Church family, examining their lives over the years during the 1920s. Robert Redford's third film as director (Teletext) (11167953)

11.10 *Inner City Blues: The Tribute to Marvin Gaye*. A drama about two separate brothers and their Montana Presbyterian Church family, examining their lives over the years during the 1920s. Robert Redford's third film as director (Teletext) (11167953)

11.45 *Film: The Happy Family* (1952, b/w) with Stanley Holloway, Kathleen Harrison and George Cole. Comedy about a London couple who refuse to leave their grocery business which the authorities want to knock down to provide space for the Festival of Britain. Directed by Muriel Box (886266). Ends at 3.30

12.30am *Dream Doll*. A Bob Godfrey animation (14476281)

12.45 *The Late Late Show*. The guests include Johnny Henry and Hugh Laurie (Teletext) (3) (157096)

1.45 *Film: The Happy Family* (1952, b/w) with Stanley Holloway, Kathleen Harrison and George Cole. Comedy about a London couple who refuse to leave their grocery business which the authorities want to knock down to provide space for the Festival of Britain. Directed by Muriel Box (886266). Ends at 3.30

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7.00am News (Coastal) and weather (497205) 7.10 Blinky Bill (1) (8631205) 7.35 Postman Pat Special (1) (7773359)

8.00 News (Coastal) and weather (5536314) 8.10 Peter Pan and the Pirates (1) (6) (7024872) 8.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (1) (8724514)

9.00 News (Coastal) (5151224) 9.05 Mighty Max (1) (707423) 9.25 POK (1) (7424663) 10.00 Playdays (1) (5) (8056601)

10.25 *Film: Blackbeard's Ghost* (1968). Disney comedy with Peter Ustinov. Directed by Robert Stevenson (15187408)

12.10pm *Pandas of the Sleeping Dragon*. In the wild, in China (1) (1755866)

1.00 News (Coastal) and weather (42966750) 1.10 Regional News (16731382)

1.15 *Neighbours* (Coastal) (5) (79312205)

1.40 *Torvill and Dean: Face the Music*. The farewell tour by the ice-dancers and company, including their best-known routines (Coastal) (5) (8809175)

2.35 *Film: Mary Poppins* (1964) starring Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke and David Tomlinson. Classic Disney comedy musical about a magical nanny. Directed by Robert Stevenson (8000224)

4.50 *Final Score* (1) (8893330)

5.15 *Beatrix Potter's Mr Tod* (1) (1370663)

5.40 *Neighbours* (520935)

6.05 News (Coastal) and weather (523863) 6.20 Regional News (151048)

6.25 *Inside the Toybox — A Toy Story Special* (Coastal) (5) (87934)

7.00 *The Showbusiness*. Mike Smith is joined by Denise Black, Deepak Verma, Lly McInerney and Phil Jupitus (Coastal) (5) (4595)

7.30 *Watchdog*. Alice Beer presents a special edition devoted entirely to shopping (Coastal) (5) (663)

8.00 *EastEnders*. Kathy helps Pat to reach a decision. Cindy tries to find some enthusiasm for Ian's trip (Coastal) (5) (3243)

8.30 *The Vicar of Dibley* (Coastal) (5) (387953)

9.10 *Over Here*. The second and concluding part of a comedy-drama written by John Sullivan and set during the Second World War. With Samuel West, Martin Clunes, Sharon Garter, Jay Goode, Todd Boyce and Geraldine James (38881601)

10.45 News (Coastal) and weather (608934)

11.10 *Match of the Day*. Highlights from tonight's FA Carling Premiership clash between Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United (5) (76231)

12.00 *Film: Al Capone* (1959, b/w) with Rod Taylor, Nicholson Powell, José de Santos, Fran Spain and Martin Balsan. Authentically violent account of the rise and fall of the notorious gangster. Young Capone appears on the scene in 1919 and murders his way to the top. Success through the sale of bootleg liquor and the St Valentine's Day massacre are followed by his disintegration and incarceration in Alcatraz. Directed by Richard Wilson (962625)

1.45am *Weather* (5621557)

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**  
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12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

8.00am *Open University: A Migrant's Heart* (7305823) 8.25 *Questions of National Identity* (85323)

7.15 *Pages from Coelin* (1632801)

7.20 *See Hear Breakfast News* (1620866)

7.30 *Songs of the Civil War* (1) (82866)

8.30 *Songs of Praise* (1) (Coastal) (5) (9421574)

9.05 *Film: A Canterbury Tale* (1944, b/w) with Eric Portman and Sheila Sim. Critical drama set during the Second World War. Directed by Michael Powell and Eric Pressburger (14112446)

11.05 *Argentine Grand Prix* (1) (5) (3580683)

11.45 *Ice Skating Gala* (1) (5) (9545137)

12.35am *The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: Planet Earth, an Explorer's Guide: On the Edge of the World* (1) (5) (1) (5) (8880585)

1.35 *Film: Houseboat* (1958). With Cary Grant and Sophia Loren. A woman takes a job as a governess for a widower's unruly brood. Directed by Melville Shavelson (Coastal) (2942755)

3.20 *Film: Arabesque* (1966) with Gregory Peck and Sophia Loren. An American agrees to decipher a hieroglyph in the interests of world peace. Directed by Stanley Donen (Coastal) (31196137)



MONDAY APRIL 8 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

## Post Office targets the travel trade

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Post Office has set its sights on becoming the biggest travel agent in Britain and plans to sell cut-price scheduled airline tickets in most of its 20,000 branches across the UK.

The service is now available at the Trafalgar Square office in London, where a six-month trial is being carried out. If successful, it will be rolled out nationally in up to 600 of the largest high street branches.

Within a year, thousands more branches could have computer systems in place to enable customers to fix up their travel documents alongside buying stamps and postal orders.

The move will increase the price war between Britain's 7,000 travel shops and high street agencies, which have been suffering this year from lack of customer demand for holidays, and fierce price competition.

The Association of British Travel Agents has not been consulted over the plans. It

said it was unaware that the service had begun. The Post Office has made no secret of its ambitions to become a one-stop holiday shop. It believes that the service, which involves the sale of flights only, and not holiday packages, will complement its existing foreign exchange and travel insurance sales through its 20,000 counters. A spokesman said: "We are visited by 28 million people every week, so the opportunities are enormous."

The Post Office is not alone in recognising the money-making potential of the travel business, estimated to be worth about £7 billion this year. Banks, clothing chains, including River Island, the fashion store, and supermarkets are all keen to secure a slice of the profit.

Both travel insurance and foreign exchange have proved popular with customers and may encourage the Post Office to expand further into personal

financial services by the end of the decade. At present, customers are able to buy foreign currency and traveller's cheques on demand at 600 larger outlets, but those using 19,000 smaller offices need to order their currency and cheques in advance.

A Post Office spokesman said of the Trafalgar Square trial that it was too early to say whether the customers had been buying tickets for Easter travel or for later in the year.

The Post Office is offering seats unsold by scheduled airlines. It said that it had no plans at present to sell surplus charter airline tickets, although the possibility of introducing such a service at a later date had not been ruled out.

The spokesman added that Post Office branches might also consider selling theatre tickets in the future, although such a move was not an option at present. He added: "We do not believe air tickets will be sold in some of the more rural areas, but we do feel there is a market for them in larger towns and cities."

Richard Dykes, head of Post Office Counters, has been working with Commodore, the computerised booking agency, to set up the Trafalgar Square trial. In time, branches may end up offering a full holiday advice service.

The spokesman said: "We will be selling tickets for all the major airlines who have spare seats on their aircraft."

He added: "In common with other similar services, we cannot guarantee that customers will be able to get the exact flight they request, but we will try to obtain the closest possible alternative. It is too early to say how many more branches will be offering this service after the six-month trial but we are confident that it will prove popular."

The Post Office's plans are part of a deal to allow a wider range of services after the Government decided to abandon the privatisation of Royal Mail.

Leading article, page 15



Peter Robinson, the deposed chief executive of the Woolwich, yesterday after returning to his Kent home

## Ousted society chief back home

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

PETER ROBINSON, the deposed chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, has come out of hiding and returned to his home in Brasted, Kent.

He continues to deny allegations of abuse of company facilities but is unlikely to make a more detailed defence until he has studied an external report into the allegations ordered by the Woolwich board. KPMG, the accountancy firm, and Linklaters & Paines, the law firm, are expected to deliver their confidential report in two weeks.

The allegations have included the use of building society-gardeners, electricians and decorators for work at his luxury home. The Woolwich board said there had been a complete breakdown of confidence in Mr Robinson.

Yesterday the Woolwich sought to quash speculation that it is in merger talks aimed at strengthening its position after Mr Robinson's dismissal.

The society denied a report that it was about to enter into negotiations with Birmingham

Midshires and dismissed rumours that it was attempting to hire Mike Jackson, the widely respected chief executive of Midshires, to take Mr Robinson's job.

Mr Jackson said yesterday: "I have not had any talks with the Woolwich about mergers or the chief executive vacancy."

The leading internal candidate is John Stewart, opera-

tions director, who has led the society's business diversification, including setting up its telephone banking arm.

The Woolwich said it intended to proceed with its conversion plans and indicated that any merger or acquisition activity would follow the flotation, scheduled for next summer.

Speaking from his £550,000 home yesterday, Mr Robinson said: "I have spent the last

couple of days staying with friends in the area on the advice of my solicitor."

"I'm not really able to comment on any allegations made against me because I have not seen anything in writing and it is only then that I will consider any response. But, meanwhile, I would like to say I deplore this smear campaign which is going on against me."

## Rentokil set to raise BET bid

By CARL MORTISHED

RENTOKIL is expected to top up its bid for BET this week with a 10p sweetener aimed at swaying loyal shareholders away from the services group headed by John Clark. Rentokil has until Friday to raise its offer but the market is expecting only a small increase from the pest control and security services group headed by Clive Tompson.

Rentokil's mixed share and cash offer values a BET share at 206p, a penny less than the

closing price last Thursday. BET has mounted a robust defence but its efforts have failed to capture the imagination of investors.

However, last week the bid battle came alive with a complaint to the Takeover Panel by BET, who alleged that market rumours that BET was under pressure from its major shareholders to enter into merger talks had been instigated by the Rentokil camp. Rentokil denies it is the source

of the rumours but the Takeover Panel is believed to be conducting inquiries.

Earlier in the week, Rentokil ridiculed a revised £146 million profit estimate from BET, which followed a forecast of £142 million, issued a fortnight earlier.

Rentokil may wait until the last minute to announce its increase in the hope that sales from nervous BET shareholders may depress the share price.

## Apax offer considered by Signet

Signet is believed to be considering an offer by Apax Partners, the venture capital group, to acquire its H Samuel and Ernest Jones retail jewellery chains for about £300 million. The Apax plan is to merge both chains with Goldsmiths, the stock market listed jewellery group. Goldsmiths, capitalised at about £63 million, has made a separate offer to acquire Signet's UK businesses, but would be ready to consider its involvement in another bid.

The combined group would have a market share of about 22 per cent. Other bidders are believed to include Gerald Ratner, who established Signet in the 1980s under the Ratners name.

## Opec tour

Amar Makhlouf, president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and Rilwanu Lukman, the secretary-general, arrive in Saudi Arabia today, as part of a tour of Gulf Opec states seeking support for a new quota system for Opec and to prepare for Iraq's eventual return to the world oil market. Iraqi and United Nations officials are due to hold further talks in New York today on a limited oil-for-food sales plan.

## BCCI appeal

Lawyers for former officials of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which collapsed in 1991, yesterday began closing arguments in an appeal in Abu Dhabi against jail terms and civil damages of about \$9 billion. Defence lawyers appealed against the 1994 sentences while prosecutors are appealing against a single not guilty verdict.

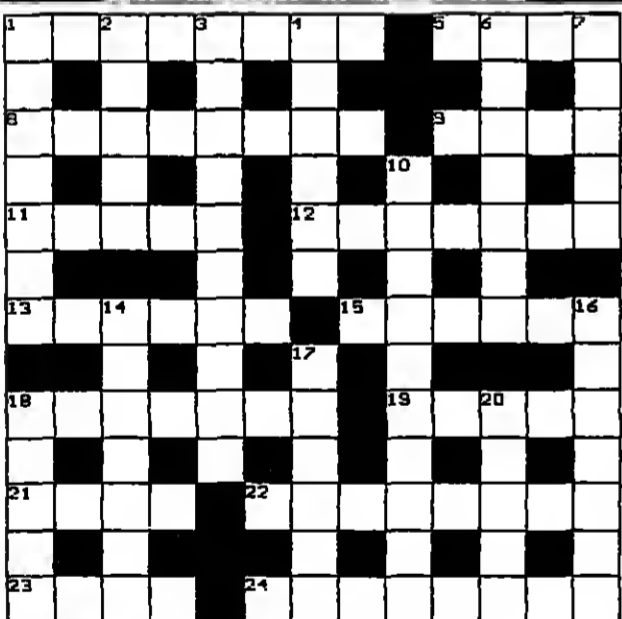
## N&P vote

The future of the National & Provincial Building Society will be sealed on Thursday when its members meet at the Nynex arena, Manchester, to vote on the £1.35 billion takeover bid by Abbey National. Of the 1.4 million savers and borrowers entitled to vote, most have already done so by post.



Backpackers at the new Trafalgar Square travel centre

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 750

- ACROSS  
 1 Wicked act of violence (8)  
 5 Metrical units; imperial units (4)  
 8 Be successful (2,6)  
 9 Strain to look; equal (4)  
 11 Stay in bed longer (3,2)  
 12 Speak badly of (7)  
 13 A particular government (6)  
 15 Stand-in monarch (6)  
 18 Thrower (7)  
 19 Of the eye (5)  
 21 Gem: Jack —, killed Lee H Oswald (4)  
 22 Stone-throwing device (8)  
 23 Appearance, manner (4)  
 24 Improvident (8)
- DOWN  
 1 Bony; awkward (7)  
 2 Indian money (5)  
 3 Puff away non-stop (5-5)  
 4 Top-of-dartboard number (6)  
 6 Carry out (7)  
 7 Bottom-of-dartboard number (5)  
 10 Dress down (4,2,4)  
 14 Mutter complaints (7)  
 16 Roman historian, notably brief (7)  
 17 Suave, polished (6)  
 18 Personal-computer memory disc (2-3)  
 20 Suspension of hostilities (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 749  
 ACROSS: 2 Blessing 6 Become 8 Draper 9 Develop 10 Natal 12 Sarcophagi 16 Murphy's Law 18 Haven 20 Pro rata 21 Tongan 22 Supine 23 Pump Room  
 DOWN: 1 General 2 Below par 3 Spring 4 Input 5 Girdle 7 Overcome 11 Airstrip 13 Aphorism 14 Halting 15 Shut up 17 Unfair 19 Venom

SOLUTION TO EASTER HOLIDAY JUMBO CONCISE  
 ACROSS: 1 Went like a lamb to the slaughter 15 Out of pocket 16 Notably 17 Posting 18 Panel game 19 Amphetamine 20 Argus 21 Croesus 23 Externally 24 Dinosaur 27 Euro 28 Compassing 30 Connoisseur 33 Mistakable 35 Terrace 36 Deprive 38 Opera 39 Laryngitis 41 Pre-release 43 Tridentine 46 Upstanding 48 Cobra 51 Baptism 52 Tea leaf 54 Regulatory 56 Short weight 57 Street door 59 Peso 61 Exemplar 63 Monotonous 65 Shorten 67 Zebra 69 Educational 70 Ephemeris 72 Dormant 73 Brittle 74 Quadrennium 75 Three blind mice, see how they run

DOWN: 1 Woodpecker 2 Not on your life 3 Lifeless 4 Kroma 5 Ankle-deep 6 Attract 7 Bonapartist 8 On the danger list 9 Hydraulic ram 10 Symbic 11 Apple-pie order 12 Gestapo 13 Thing 14 Registrar General 22 Snorkel 25 America 26 Unwearying 29 Sterne 31 Supplicate 32 Strategist 34 Baronetage 37 Not to be sneezed at 40 Impressionistic 42 Untrue 44 Improve 45 Temperamental 47 Gallows 49 Border terrier 50 Factionalism 53 Forlornness 55 Cornishman 58 Desperado 60 Commence 62 Placate 64 Oblivious 66 Durban 68 Barrer 71 Hierat

## Head of Cookson gets £1.7m pay package

By MARTIN BARROW

RICHARD OSTER, head of Cookson, the electronic materials and ceramics group, became one of the UK's best-paid chief executives last year when he earned a total of £1.73 million. Total remuneration, which compared with earnings of £1.35 million in the previous 12 months, included a basic salary of £581,032 and bonuses of £929,221.

The annual report also shows another two directors received substantial pay increases. Donald Carriere and Stephen Howard, who act as joint group managing directors, were paid £954,628 and £898,597 respectively, compared with £674,860 and £662,714 in the previous 12 months.

During the year when the company achieved a 50 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptional items to £181.5 million, the company paid a

total of £4.93 million to its directors, a sharp increase from £3.5 million in the previous year. In addition, Cookson contributed £981,260 to their pensions. Mr Oster also received 416,468 share options during the year, with a market



Oster: share options

value of £104,000. The average exercise price is 281p, compared with a current price of 310p. At the year-end Mr Oster held options on shares with a total market value of £3.3 million.

Mr Oster and the joint managing directors, who are all US citizens, are on three-year rolling contracts, an arrangement that has attracted criticism during the current debate on corporate governance. However, the company says it is "not in the best interests of shareholders" to seek to renegotiate the notice periods.

Last year Ray Sharpe, vice-president of Cookson America, received £479,520 in compensation for the cancellation of a third year of notice which was provided in his contract before he became a director.

## Wall Street braced for delayed shock

## US job figures to hit shares

By JANET BUSH  
 ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WALL STREET is today braced for significant initial losses as the American stock market has its first chance to react to Friday's stronger than expected employment figures for March.

The figures, which showed that 140,000 jobs had been created outside the farm sector last month, appeared to confirm that the American economic recovery is alive and well and that there is no need for further interest rate cuts.

Although continuing health

in economic growth should be positive for corporate profits and the stock market, Wall Street is still likely to react to the fallout to the US Treasury bond market on Friday, when the benchmark long bond fell by nearly two percentage points, taking its yield to 6.84 per cent from 6.66 per cent at Thursday's close.

The New York Stock Exchange, which was closed on Friday, reopens today, but British markets will not be able to react to developments in the US until traders return to work tomorrow.

The 140,000 gain in non-

farm payrolls added to a revised increase of 624,000 in February. The February figure was revised down from the 705,000 rise originally reported, which sent American stocks and bonds into a tailspin.

The latest Merrill Lynch Gallup survey of British fund managers showed that 85 per cent of those surveyed expect an improvement in Britain's general economic situation over the coming year. Some 61 per cent expect inflation to be higher in a year's time, with 39 per cent expecting base rates to be rising in a year.

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MUSICALS Broadway star Mandy Patinkin makes his British stage debut performing show tunes at the Almeida...

CABARET Mulling it over

Denny Laine Cafe Royal

BOOKS John Bejeman's writings on the Church are published in a new edition illustrated by Paul Hogarth...

FILM More wit and wisdom as life meets art in Woody Allen's latest snappy comedy, Mighty Aphrodite...

MUSIC The South Bank begins a massive month-long celebration of a giant of avant-gardism, Harrison Birtwistle...

POP From 10,000 Maniacs to solo stardom: Natalie Merchant brings her alternative rock to Shepherd's Bush...

ARTS TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

TELEVISION: Andy Lavender on final editing of the great controversialist's last two surreal dramas

Dennis Potter: the parting shots

It is already billed as one of the most significant events in modern television drama. Karaoke and Cold Lazarus were the last works to be written by Dennis Potter...



Posthumous Potter with a sci-fi touch: Carmen Ejogu, Ganiat Kasumu, Ciaran Hinds and Frances de la Tour in a scene from Cold Lazarus, which begins in May

Potter's final works, written through pain and against the clock, may prove to be his most impressive. The director, Renny Rye, will come in for his share of praise or condemnation...

Amid the fluster of commentary, nobody will mention Clare Douglas. This will not be unusual — after all, how many film editors' names can you drop? Nonetheless, it will be an oversight of some proportion.

The central character's head has been frozen and a group of scientists manages to thaw out his memories

finishing touches to Karaoke and Cold Lazarus. Karaoke is set in 1994, the year of Potter's death. Its central character is a writer who is at the post-production stage with a film he has scripted...

merged together by the Computer Film Company. It seems reassuringly human that such wizardry then returns to a humdrum room with formica desks and grubby white walls...

has been a cutaway shot to one of the scientists standing towards the back of the laboratory. "At this stage there is a feeling that she may be a government spy," says Douglas...

intuition. "You put the shots together and something else comes out of it which you can't explain," says Douglas. "It is feeling the rhythms of the pictures themselves and of people's dialogue..."

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

MOZART'S SYMPHONY NO 29 Reviewed by Richard Osborne

With its beguiling mix of sense and sensibility, Mozart's Symphony No 29 is his first undisputed symphonic masterpiece. He was 18 when he completed it in Salzburg in 1774...



Building a library about Britten's later Mozart recordings, especially in the slow movements, which will alienate self-styled 'authenticists'...



Boulez: meticulous and supple signals

CONCERTS: The 1950s revisited; assured Rachmaninov Omens, signs and wonders

The Purcell Room was packed with many a grey-haired music establishment worthy on Wednesday night for a trip down memory lane. The South Bank's 1950s festival focused on two classics by Pierre Boulez and Hans Werner Henze...

London Sinfonietta / Stenz Purcell Room

the passionate utterances of the human voice. Fiona Kimm was a powerful wordsmith — until the words began to crack and break under the burden...

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Berkeley Road, London W10 6BL...

Vernon Handley has a deserved reputation for getting to the heart of Romantic music, and as associate conductor of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra he earned acclaim from his players as well as the audience...

Directing a Russian drama RPO/Handley Albert Hall

In the muscular vivacity of the following Scherzo movement, and an Adagio that restored self-respect to the kind of music that was hijacked by an entire generation of Hollywood composers...

end, perhaps also as a token for the eloquent contributions from fellow players around her. Not the least of Handley's skill was in securing a consistent balance of texture and colour...

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The solving of a famous conundrum will lead to new challenges, says Marcus du Sautoy

# Is this solution the end of maths?

My lady, take Fermat into the music room. There will be an extra spoonful of jam if you find his proof. Tom Stoppard in his play *Arcadia* is just one of many who have helped to immortalise Fermat's Last Theorem as the Greatest Unsolved Problem of Mathematics.

But last month in Jerusalem, it was Andrew Wiles, and not *Arcadia's* Thomasina, who was claiming that spoonful of jam. His solution of Fermat's Last Theorem was rewarded in the Knesset (Israel's parliament) with one of mathematics' highest accolades, the Wolf prize worth \$60,000, which he shares with his colleague at Princeton, Robert Langlands.

Fermat conjectured that, if  $n$  is a number bigger than 2, you will never be able to find three whole numbers such that the  $n$ th power of the first is the sum of the  $n$ th powers of the other two. Or, for those with a head for equations, that  $x^n + y^n = z^n$  has no solution where  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  are whole numbers. Wiles explains the appeal of Fermat's problem: "Here was a problem that I, a ten-year-old, could understand, but none of the great mathematicians had been able to resolve. From that moment I tried to solve it myself."

The legendary status of the problem comes, though, from Fermat's tantalising marginal note, probably the biggest provocation in the history of mathematics. "I have a wonderful proof of this fact which the margin is too small to contain."

Centuries of searching for Fermat's proof unearthed quantities of mathematical treasures but Fermat's gem remained hidden. Perhaps *Arcadia's* Thomasina was right: "The note in the margin is a joke to make you all mad." With time it became something of a sideline. That is until the mid-eighties when it became inextricably linked with a much more modish part of mathematics — elliptic curves.



Emma Fielding, as Tom Stoppard's Thomasina

Ken Ribet, of the University of Berkeley, showed that Fermat would follow from a conjecture about elliptic curves named after two Japanese mathematicians, Taniyama and Shimura. It was armed with this information that Wiles dedicated seven years to settling enough of Taniyama-Shimura to yield

'No other problem will ever be the same to me'

his childhood dream of proving Fermat.

But with its solution, have we lost the magic that this puzzle has generated over the centuries? Could anything possibly replace Fermat's Last Theorem as mathematics' holy grail? Most people believe that mathematical research is long division to a lot of decimal places. With the advent of the

computer, surely mathematics must have all been worked out by now. So is that the end of mathematics?

This perception of mathematics could not be further from the truth. The subject is full of open problems, some of which are much older than Fermat, others which are very new. While Wiles is being honoured for the end of a story, his fellow prizewinner, Robert Langlands, is being rewarded for an inspired new problem. In mathematics, this sort of vision is often more important than proof.

The Langlands Programme, as his vision is called, proposes to unify two seemingly different areas of mathematics — arithmetic and symmetry. It provides some sort of dictionary, translating one into another.

The Taniyama-Shimura conjecture, which Wiles partially proved, is itself just a small part of this programme. His vision is so deep that a proof will probably not be seen in our lifetime and will certainly be a worthy successor to Fermat for stimulating new ideas and research.

But the problem most mathematicians would trade their soul with Mephistopheles for



A three-dimensional solution to Fermat's Last Theorem: the Riemann Hypothesis is the next great problem

a proof has to be the Riemann Hypothesis. It is a far greater goal for mathematics than Fermat. Even if Mephistopheles was to provide an unspurring proof, the understanding that Riemann's conjecture would give us about prime numbers is immense.

The famous Cambridge mathematician G.H. Hardy almost provided the Riemann Hypothesis with a story to equal Fermat's cryptic note in the margin. On a rough sea crossing, fearing for his life, he sent a joke telegram saying he had found a wonderful proof. The ship, however, did not sink.

Although mathematicians are quite happy to explain Fermat at a dinner party, the Riemann hypothesis is a little

more indigestible. Here, though, for those with a strong stomach, is a flavour of what it says. The prime numbers are the indivisible building blocks of all numbers, yet their properties remain deeply mysterious. Two thousand years ago Euclid showed there were infinitely many primes.

This year we celebrate a hundred years of knowing what proportion of all numbers are prime numbers. But if you look at a list of primes there really seems to be no nice pattern. It all looks like random noise.

Around 1740, Euler identified a function (now called the Riemann zeta function) which allowed you to understand all

prime numbers in one go. A function is like a computer — you feed a number in, it calculates away and gives you a number out.

Those numbers which output zero are in some sense the harmonics of this function. It is these harmonics which tell you all about prime numbers. Riemann conjectured what these harmonics look like. If true, it could imply that the music of the primes is far from being just noise.

But both Langlands Programme and the Riemann Hypothesis are far too complicated ever to capture the public imagination as mathematics' new Great Unsolved Problem. Perhaps as the solver of Fermat it is up to Andrew Wiles to throw down the

gauntlet for the next generation.

"There's no other problem that will mean the same to me," he says. But Wiles does suggest as a candidate perhaps the oldest unsolved problem in mathematics, the so-called Problem of Congruent Numbers. It is simple to state and a child can start playing round with ideas. Yet it relates to deep questions of arithmetic and has resisted centuries of attack.

Perhaps a snappier name and some cryptic marginal notes by the likes of Andrew Wiles and it could find its way into the public imagination.

Dr Marcus du Sautoy is a Royal Society University Research Fellow at the Department of Pure Mathematics in Cambridge.

## Artists from the depths

Anjana Ahuja on early man's sunken studio

THE Cosquer cave was discovered by Henri Cosquer, a deep-sea diver, in 1985 at the foot of a cliff at Cape Morgiou, near Marseilles. News of the magnificent collection of prehistoric art it contained spread quickly, drawing widespread media attention around the world.

Jean Clottes and Jean Courtin, two archaeologists who studied the cave in subsequent diving missions, have just published a complete record of what they found (*The Cave Beneath the Sea*, Abrams, £45). Looking beyond the beautiful pictures, the book is a tale of exploration, mistrust and controversy. Several experts claimed the cave was a fake, angering the elite assembled to investigate it. The dangers of exploring undersea caverns provided an added, grim allure — three divers died trying to find it.

THE engravings and paintings inside it include eerie images of stencilled human hands. Animals also feature heavily, including horses, ibex (wild goat) and chamois (goat antelope), and there are unusual depictions of sea creatures such as seal, fish and jellyfish. The animals are patterned with rectangles, zigzags and spears.

The artists executed their handiwork in two distinct eras, 27,000 years ago and 18,500 years ago, according to dating carried out using charcoal found lying on the cave floor.

The 490-ft entrance to the palaeolithic (early Stone Age) cave became submerged at the end of the last Ice Age, 12,000 years ago, preserving what seems to have been a primitive studio and ceremonial site rather than a place to live.

Divers also found the remains of burnt logs, which were probably used to illuminate the cave while the prehistoric artists worked.

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When information should be open to all □ Danger beneath our feet □ Light on the way birds see

THE gene-sequencers ought to be enjoying themselves. After years of promising great results, they are beginning to deliver. The complete genetic sequence of baker's yeast, listing every DNA base, has just been completed, by a team at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium.

But they have announced that the final fifth of the sequence will not be made public until the end of this month.

They feel that having done the work, they ought to have at least the first chance of exploiting it. But the world's two big sequencing laboratories, Britain's Sanger Centre in Cambridge and Washington University in St Louis, take the opposite view. They argue that sequence data is basic information that should be published as soon as it is available, so that everybody can have an equal chance of taking advantage of it.

The policy is questioned in *Nature* by a team from the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, who show that Japanese and American companies have been much quicker to exploit

this information than British or European ones.

Of the 1.175 patents so far granted for human DNA sequences, most are owned by Japanese or American companies, report Dr Sandy Thomas and colleagues. More than 70 per cent of the human gene patents issued by the European Patent Office are in Japanese or American hands.

Dr Thomas says that Britain's policy of open access means that the country could lose out, as it has in the past. She cites the case of the breast cancer gene BRCA2, now the subject of a patent battle between the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey, and the American company Myriad Genetics, of Salt Lake City.

Both are claiming to have

been first to identify a use for the gene, which gives women who carry it a far greater risk of getting breast cancer. Myriad Genetics filed its patent for the gene after the DNA sequence was put on the Internet by the Sanger Centre.

Though Myriad has denied that it was this data which put it on the Internet, it could certainly have been helpful. The irony is that the DNA came originally from the Institute of Cancer Research. This means that material from one British laboratory,

sequenced at another, could have provided a distant company with a valuable patent.

"It raises interesting questions," says Dr Thomas. She says the Government's policy of wealth creation through basic science "sits uncomfortably" with the fact that an American company is able to file for a patent through publicly funded research in Britain.

Dr Richard Wooster, of the Sutton team, believes that the Sanger data was helpful to everybody. "Myriad got an

advantage, but so did we," he says.

The Sutton team identified a length of DNA containing about a million "bases" within which the BRCA2 gene lay. But to get any closer they needed the full sequence of the bases, which the Sanger Centre was better equipped to obtain. "It would take them a couple of months, while it might have taken us a year," says Dr Wooster.

Once the complete sequence was available on the Internet, it was easier for both the Sutton and the Myriad groups to identify the 10,000 or so bases that make up the gene, and to devise a use for it to make it patentable. Possible uses include a screening test for women who carry the gene, and long-term therapeutic possibilities, both of which

are covered in the Myriad claim.

The open access policy is defended by Dr David Owen, of the Medical Research Council, which supports the Sanger Centre jointly with the Wellcome Trust.

"When it is just a gene sequence, the best place for it is in the public domain," he says. "The more people who know about it, the more likely it will be put to good use."

The Wellcome Trust recently organised a meeting in Bermuda to thrash out the issue. Participants agreed that fast data release is desirable, but not everybody believes that it is possible. Many expect that the Belgian approach will be followed by others, particularly in Germany. Japan is already very cagey with its data, Dr Thomas says.

The problem is, she says, that America has many more companies alert to the commercial opportunities of gene sequences. "Given that Britain and Europe have a weak position, it is vital that we develop better mechanisms to protect our interests."

# Why Britain is losing the great gene race



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

## Radon belt discovered

A STUDY by the British Geological Survey has shown that houses far from the granite regions of the South West may suffer from high levels of radon, the radioactive gas that seeps up from the ground.

Measurements made by the National Radiological Protection Board have enabled the BGS team to identify another belt, running roughly from Lyme Bay to Hull, where

radon levels are high. The culprit is not granite, but carboniferous limestone, which is also found in Bristol and parts of Wales.

The limestone does not contain as much uranium — which decays to produce radon — as does granite, but it is more dispersed, so more radon reaches the atmosphere. Drawn up through the foundations of houses, it can reach levels that the NRPB believes increase the risks of cancer.

Dr Donald Appleton, of the BGS, says that the risk from limestone declines towards the North, as the amounts of shale increase. The risk also depends on what is deposited on top of the limestone.

## Through a bird's eye

BIRDS are often wonderfully coloured, but to each other they may be more vivid still. In an ingenious series of experiments, a team from Bristol and Regensburg universities has shown that zebra finches use the ability to see in the ultraviolet when they are choosing mates.

They put a female in a square cage, surrounded on all four sides by cages containing males, each of which could

be shown to the female one at a time by moving baffles. Transparent filters controlled the wavelength of the light seen by the female, whose reaction was measured by how vigorously she hopped about when face to face with each of the males.

The result, reported in *Nature*, is that the ultraviolet light at wavelengths between 300 and 400 nanometres was indeed important, and probably contributed to the female's colour perception. Birds evidently do not see each other quite as we see them: maybe, suggest Dr Andrew Bennett and colleagues, ultraviolet is a special waveband used in avian signalling.

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# Grand maternal instincts

**As she approaches 90, Elizabeth Longford, who has 26 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, reflects on the pleasures of the extended family**

MY FUTURE husband, then aged six, was present at a garden party given by his grandmother Lady Jersey in honour of Lord Kitchener. "And who are you, my little man?" asked the hero. Frank replied solemnly: "I am the grandson of Grandmama."

I have a feeling that grandparents are moving once more into the ascendant. This may be sheer conceit of course. But one is apt to feel on the map when one is grandparent to 12 grandchildren, 14 grandsons (excluding two step-grandsons) and one step-granddaughter — excluded from the good relationship but by no means from the affections, five great-granddaughters and two great-grandsons, with two more great-grandchildren on the way.

This roll call would have been nothing special in the Victorian age when grandmothers were the prop of countless households, both poor and rich. To the poor they were unpaid nannies and to the rich they became voluntary psychiatric consultants. Queen Victoria quarrelled furiously with her own mother, but when she died, Victoria felt that she was irreplaceable in her role of grandmother to the royal children: no one else could be relied on to show the same interest in every one of them. Victoria herself was widely admired as the "Grandmother of Europe".

Immediately after the Second World War, I wondered what future remained for the larger family with its out-riders — aunts, uncles, grandparents and great-grandparents. When our eighth child was born a letter arrived saying I was breeding like a rabbit and ought to know better. Mr Nasty raged about having to contribute as a bachelor taxpayer to my Family Allowance. Nor had myomatosis yet arrived to cheer him up.

Half a century later a volume arrives in our bookshops which will put Mr Nasty in his place, and the family in its place, along with those guardians of hearth and home, the grandparents.

Dr Joan Gomez's *You and Your Grandchild* (Bloomsbury) is a miracle of comprehensiveness, compassion and wisdom, illustrated by plenti-

ful anecdotes. I thoroughly enjoyed this grandmotherly saga, even though in several ways it outstripped my experiences and in other ways has been outdistanced by them. To start with, Dr Gomez's typical grandmother is round about 50 and seems to have only one or two grandchildren.

To me, being a great-grandmother means something less cosy and rather more dinosaurian than Dr Gomez's portrait. I am about to be 90, my eldest grandchild being 39 and eldest great-grandchild, Stella, eight. That means they have a real acquaintanceship with extreme old age. I remember one of the three-year-old grandchildren asking, "Granny, why is your hand cracked?" If she had asked why my brain was cracked I would have understood. But she didn't. Then I realised that she had been examining my intricate web of wrinkles. So, a lecture followed on why Mummy's hand is smooth but Granny's is wrinkled, illustrated by the old and young bark of trees. Another three-year-old grandchild was much taken with my white hair, studying its texture and lightness. I think he hoped it would taste like candyfloss.

**'I think he hoped my white hair would taste like candyfloss'**

Blanche, when a four-year-old great-grandchild, and her sister Amlanta both took immense pleasure in the very name of "Great-Granny", and would always hail me in loud chorus with strong emphasis on the "great". Actually I came to suspect that Blanche thought great meant unutterably old — like Father William in *Alice*. At any rate, while "interviewing" her for a book about grandchildren, I asked her: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Blanche replied promptly: "I want to be a normal person." Surprised and highly amused, her mother and I assumed she must be echoing a grown-up phrase she had picked — but maybe she knew the meaning of "normal" all too well, especially in so far as it did not include the idea of extreme old age.

As for the now generally acclaimed magic that grandmothers of whatever age can work within the family, I heartily subscribe to its existence. For instance, our reminiscences can put their



Gathering of the clan: (back row, left to right) Orlando Fraser, Harry Pakenham, Richard Pakenham, Guy Pakenham; (middle row) Benjamin Fraser holding Eliza Fraser, Maria Pakenham, Rose Billington, Rebecca Fitzgerald, Flora Fraser, Eliza Chisholm; (front row) Hermione Pakenham holding Thomas Fraser, Atalanta Fitzgerald, the Countess of Longford holding Honor Fitzgerald, Blanche Fitzgerald, Stella Powell-Jones holding William Fraser, Ben Pakenham and Dominic Pakenham

problems in perspective; but we must not overdo the "I remember", since teenage grandchildren in particular want to talk about themselves, and rightly so. At a certain stage, the young need as many confidantes as they can get.

I must end with a delightful reversal of roles. In my ninetieth year it is my grandchildren who help me, instead of vice versa. "Granny, mind this step. Granny, I've done some shopping for you. Here are the jacket potatoes, soup, salad, smoked salmon (a special treat), grapes." After I tripped and fell on an uneven pavement, they all rallied round. And my grandson-in-law turned up to cook our dinner: chops in a celestial sauce eaten to the accompaniment of tales from Moscow. Who would not be an antique granny with such compensations?

## WHY MY GRANDMOTHER IS SO SPECIAL

**THE grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Elizabeth Longford are united in praise of her qualities and proud of her treasured role in the life of their family. In our brief opinion poll, this is what they had to say about her:**

**Back row, left to right**  
Orlando Fraser: "Her goodness shines out. She's always interested in whatever you are doing. She's simply glorious and adorable."

**Harry Pakenham:** "The thing that's special about her is her enthusiasm for people and life. It seems more typical of someone who is nine rather than 90. I hope I am as lucky in love as grandpa."

**Richard Pakenham:** "She gives equal love to all her grandchildren, whether she sees them once a

week or every few months. There's no favouritism. And, even now, she still takes the children up the road to get sweets."

**Guy Pakenham:** "I have never met someone so interested in other people. I am about to get married and my fiancée was much more interested in granny than I thought granny would be in her. It turned out to be the other way round!"

**Middle row, left to right**  
Benjamin Fraser: "She represents a golden age of grannies. She is so young at heart, so exciting and energetic. She also gives a very good impression of being immortal. She can communicate with all her grandchildren."

**Maria Pakenham:** "She is not a traditional muffs-and-snap granny — she's more interested in talking to you than knitting you jumpers. She is incredibly tolerant and witty, and encourages you whatever your talents are."

**Rose Billington:** "She has enormous energy and vibrancy, and amazing powers of concentration. She listens very carefully to what you say and always has an original and fascinating reply to hand. She doesn't just fling out comments left, right and centre."

**Rebecca Fitzgerald:** "She loves babies, adores children and spots the tiniest things that only a besotted mother would notice. She is incredibly warm and celebratory,

and a thrilling person to talk to."

**Flora Fraser:** "She has a great enthusiasm for all her grandchildren's projects and a tremendous enthusiasm for all her descendants."

**And the great-grandchildren...**  
Ben Pakenham (front row, second from right): "You can talk to her about any subject. She knows a lot about music which is good, because I play the trumpet. I think I am closer to her than my friends are to their grannies."

**Hermione Pakenham:** (front row, far left) "Granny joins in a lot of my school activities, like my poetry evening recently. She's quite active for her age and I love being with her."

ANJANA AHUJA

Giles Coren pays a visit to the Tate and discovers that the continentals do not share Hogarth's sense of humour



Detail from Hogarth's *O the Roast Beef of Old England* shows the painter at far left

FORGET Cézanne. The cognoscenti at the Tate Gallery these days are hanging around a picture painted 90 years before Paul was even a glimmer in his father's eye.

And it is an English picture, at that. William Hogarth's *O the Roast Beef of Old England* has been the talking-point of the casual art world since interest in our cattle was renewed by the recent BSE panic. The Tate Gallery is laid out chronologically, and it is in room two, at the dawn of great English painting, that one encounters Hogarth and his revolutionary canvasses, overpopulated, political and, above all, comical.

"Here is a great side of roast beef," says a tour guide, "used to symbolise English superiority over the French at the time of the Jacobite unrest. Look how the French chef buckles under the weight of it." She moves on to the next room to expound on Constable. But an elderly French gentleman loiters, suspicious, in the Hogarth enclosure.

"C'est pas du rosbif, ça," he says, scrutinising the meat. "C'est une côte de boeuf, bien sûr, mais c'est pas du rosbif."

HE IS bitter. For Hogarth, in the days before English beef lost its credibility, did not suffer Frenchies gladly. "Hogarth était... je sais pas le mot en français... euro-sceptic," supplies another young lady, a blue-badge guide and student of art history at Birkbeck College.

She explains that in 1748 William Hogarth, while waiting for a ferry, decided to sketch the gate of Calais, which was emblazoned with English coats of arms, the port having been, until relatively recently, an English possession. But he was

## When France went mad for British beef

arrested as a spy, on suspicion of making illegal sketches of the fortifications, and this painting was his revenge. He himself stands far left, with the hand of a gendarme tapping his shoulder.

The vast side of beef is on its way to an English pub. *Le Lion d'Argent*, to be consumed by the expatriates who stood for no fancy foreign rubbish in those glorious days of the Whig ascendancy.

While the English eat their magnificent beef, the poverty-stricken French can only eye it. A fatted monk clearly covets it, too, symbolising the hypocrisy and greed of the French clergy.

"But look at the people's faces," says a middle-aged German tourist called Matthew Hauser. "They are clearly mad. They have all caught 'mad cow' disease, and the halberdier is telling

the beef smuggler to take his dirty meat back to England." Upstairs Texton laughter follows, but the guide has another theory.

"Hogarth hated foreigners," she explains. "He was trying to forge a path for a new English style, and anything foreign was anathema to him. There is a self-portrait in the National Gallery, which also shows his dog urinating on a collection of foreign paintings. Here, the beef is integral to English supremacy."

"Je mange pas ça, moi," says an old Frenchman. And several Gallic heads shake their concurrence.

"The guide is unruffled. "The French have always laughed at this picture," she says. "The meat is more fatty and marbled than the cuts of today, but that is probably because it predates intensive farming, and is the way our beef would be now if it were not for selective breeding and hormone injections. What makes them laugh is the idea, BSE or no BSE, that the French should be depicted as covetous of any English cuisine at all."

### INCIDENT on the YANGTSE

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### Matthew Parris



**The Catholic Church is losing its grip in Latin America, to a faith that encourages the individual — at last**

From this vantage point, the whole of the eastern part of Lake Titicaca lies stretched out at my feet. The sky and the lake seem to meet, glowing blue. The place feels enchanted. I am sitting on the flat roof of the *Residencial* of the Empire of the Sun, a tiny boarding house at the top of this village, which nestles beneath the ridge of the Island of the Sun. We are 1,000ft above the lake. The island is anciently sacred to the culture of the Andes. Pre-Inca empires believed their deities were born here. The Inca civilisation, conquering them, cannily discovered that its deity, the Sun himself, had come to Earth here, bridging Heaven and Earth and, in human form, founding the dynasty of the Incas.

**Catholicism never challenged the subjugation of the individual to the many**

Then the *Conquistadors* of the Incas, the Spaniards, announced that a wood carving of the Virgin Mary, carved by an Indian craftsman, was divinely inspired. The Catholics founded a great church just across the water from the island, at a village called Copacabana to honour this image of Mary. Later it became the Patron of Bolivia. Crowds flocked to Copacabana to pray for blessings, and Christen their cars and lorries by the waters of the lake, to bring them luck on the roads.

Intercessions for blessings take the form of laying at a hilltop altar small replicas of the bouillottes for which the supplicant hopes. The kiosks around the church sell Matchbox Mercedes, tiny model houses, and miniature American dollars to place there. The Catholic Church permits this, although it well knows that the ritual has roots in the pagan Indian custom of bringing miniatures to its own god of plenty.

But Catholicism in the Andes is fighting for its life. As a backpacking traveller, I blunder in anologically to a subject which is doubtless much discussed in religious journals — and I shall surely err in some of my observations — but how many *Times* readers know that the Catholic Church may be dying on this continent, at least as the unchallenged force it has been for nearly four centuries?

Although this is Easter, there is little sign of religious observance on the Island of the Sun. Everywhere I go in the Andes I see churches neglected, empty, decaying. Even over the 15 years I have been coming here, the change has been very marked. I wonder whether any faith is declining quite as fast anywhere else in the world?

The Basilica San Francisco in La Paz, the ordinary people's favourite church, was overflowing 15 years ago. Today, although still the capital's busiest church, the Basilica is rarely full. Friends here tell me that the

church is finding it almost impossible to recruit new priests in sufficient numbers, and priests have growing difficulties in holding on to their parishioners.

Why? The decline of Catholic piety in the Andes is not simply a case of growing secularism, though many who quit turn to no other religion. Nor, I am told, is there any real renaissance of pagan beliefs. It is the Christian evangelicals who are taking up the slack. Indeed you could say that here in Bolivia they are storming the citadels of Catholicism.

All over the *Altiplano* I see new little evangelical churches springing into existence. Constructed from breeze-blocks or mud, with none of the decorative flourish of Catholic architecture, they shout their messages of individual salvation in crude slogans daubed on their sides. Passing these tiny centres of worship, one can hear peasants singing within.

The Catholic Church in Bolivia and Peru (though not, of course, everywhere in Latin America) has made two monumental historical blunders, one political and one social, both results of its deep association with power. It has attached itself to the old political regimes, the old oppression and the old corruption. And these forces are fading.

So far from bludgeoning the peasants into new ways, it is often thoughtlessly preferred to leave their lifestyle alone, and gone with the grain of their old sins and ways. It has thus become a peasant religion.

Alcoholism is a terrific problem in the Andes, and the evangelicals — militant teetotalers — are challenging alcoholism as the Catholic Church never has. Cocaine-chewing has been a problem too. This is said to be on the decline in Bolivia, probably thanks to evangelical campaigns against the drug. More than this, though, the message of individual responsibility, dignity and pride, through the individual's unmediated approach to God, is enormously liberating and disciplining for a peasant people whose culture has repressed individuality and subjected them to the norms of the many. Catholicism never challenged this subjugation of the individual.

To put it crudely, the Catholic Church in the Andes has taken the wrong side. I think its condition may now be critical. Visitors to the Island of the Sun 50 years hence may hear of an evangelical miracle in this place, pursuant to the Catholic one, which was pursuant to the Inca miracle, itself pursuant to the ancient meeting here of Heaven and Earth.

The Chinese Government seems not to understand what Hong Kong, and the world, expect of it

## The encircled dragon lashes out

In the past few weeks, even since I last visited Hong Kong in January, there has been a sharp fall in local confidence about Hong Kong's future under Chinese rule. The queues for passports are one sign of that. In January, the pro-Chinese Hong Kong leaders were still arguing that it would only take time for the Peking regime to develop into something more benign, and even eventually into something more democratic.

The argument one heard was that China had, of course, made a great mistake in adopting the Russian Marxist model in the 1940s, that Deng Xiaoping had recognised that the American economic model was much more efficient, that already this was producing a younger generation of well-travelled Chinese, many of them American-educated, who were waiting to take China into the modern world, politically as well as economically. In ten or 15 years' time, they would take over power from the old men, and in the meantime one must have a little patience.

Under its new owner, Robert Kuok, the *South China Morning Post* has usually taken the more optimistic and pro-Chinese line. That gives all the more weight to a full-page article by Jasper Becker on "China's PR blunders" which that newspaper published on Saturday. This expressed the new anxiety which has become very widespread in Hong Kong in the past few weeks. The article refers to China's alarming policy towards Taiwan, to the mishandling of relations with Hong Kong and to the significant weaknesses of the New China News Agency, which has tended to misinform the Chinese about the outside world. It gives a picture of Peking in which "incompetent and inexperienced" junior officials are telling the leaders what they think the leaders want to hear.

Last week the North Korean incursions into the demilitarised zone heightened the feeling of tension which exists all around China's borders. No one knows what the real relations are now between the Chinese Government and the North Korean regime. In the recent past, on the nuclear issue, China has been a moderating influence. On this occasion, China may have been more willing to see North Korea add its might to the pressure on the United States which had already arisen over the American commitment to Taiwan.

When one looks at China's geopolitical position, it all seems a dangerous game, but one which is more probably being played from weakness than from strength. China exists inside a large box, with Russia and Mongolia to the north; Islam (in the form of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan) to the west; India, Nepal, Burma and on to Vietnam in the south; and Taiwan, Japan and ultimately the United States to the east. All of these neighbours regard China with some anxiety and with increasing suspicion, although Pakistan is tied to China by a still greater fear of India.

There is an historic parallel, and it is not reassuring. In the early years of this century, the central powers of Europe — Germany and Austria — were surrounded by anxious neighbours. Russia, France, Italy and Great Britain felt themselves to be threatened by the Prussian Empire, as Germany was then called. On their side, Germany and Austria felt themselves to be encircled by potentially hostile powers, including the country that in 1914 British leader writers were to label "gallant little Serbia". This combination of fear of a potentially dominant power with that power's fear of being surrounded produced successive crises in Europe. The final one led to the Great War. When a major continental power is surrounded, an inherently dangerous geopolitical pattern is created

these Han Chinese have the best jobs, the old cultures and religions have been undermined, there are occasional minor nationalist riots. The Chinese have created a large nuclear test site at Lop Nur in Xinjiang, and have built large prison camps.

It is worrying for the people of Hong Kong and the people of Taiwan that China's rule of these remote western regions has been so insensitive and repressive, wholly concentrated on the short-term interests of the regime. Unforgivable environmental damage, of a quite irreparable kind, has been done. The Hong Kong Chinese are increasingly fearful that the assurances of the Joint Declaration will prove meaningless for them, and that Hong Kong will be treated far worse as a Chinese colony after 1997 than it has been as a British one. The queues for passports may well indicate a further flight of capital, as well as of people.

The more critical Chinese observers are divided about the outlook. The optimists think that what has been going wrong has been caused simply by the gap between the Deng Xiaoping regime and the new regime of Jiang Zemin, which is still being established. In this sense, the *South China Morning Post* could still be regarded as the optimists, treating the errors of policy as public relations blunders, compounded by the inadequacies of the information

presented to the leaders. The pessimists see these blunders, which amount to a basic failure to establish normal relations with China's neighbours, as typical signs of the end of a regime, the traditional disorder which has appeared at the end of every Chinese dynasty. Fewer people now think that there will be a benign transition from the present Leninist party rule to democracy as the younger group comes to power.

In the meantime, China's rapid economic development continues. After 1997, the Chinese regime in Hong Kong may do some damage to its wonderful money-making machine. International businesses have so far been remarkably willing to take the Joint Declaration on trust. That trust may be ending. The Chinese have already handled the future of Hong Kong in ways which have done great damage to public morale and confidence. The fear is now spreading to the international financial community. Yet Hong Kong has such momentum that it will take a long time to lose its attraction to investors, unless the new regime proves to be wholly perverse.

In the period before the Tiananmen Square killings, there was great world optimism about China's political development. Even after the massacre, it was widely believed that the repression was only an incident on China's journey to a more open society. In 1996, that confidence has been shaken by the mishandling of Hong Kong, by the continued oppression in the western territories and by the threat to Taiwan. All of China's neighbours, including India, have a feeling that the regime in Peking does not have a proper understanding of the world outside. The tragedy is that the world's goodwill is still there. China has been choosing to damage its own reputation; the rest of the world would like nothing better than to re-establish good relations.

## What Tony learnt from Bill

**Campaigning isn't enough; Labour must show it can govern, writes Peter Riddell**

Tony Blair can learn a lot from Bill Clinton — about how to win elections and about how not to govern. The two are linked, since the origins of the President's problems in office go back to the 1992 campaign. When the two met in the White House on Friday, much will be made of their similarities — leaders in their forties trying to change their parties and to present them as new and of the centre, after long periods out of power and the political mainstream. There is the obvious risk of too much gushing about a new "special relationship", a Bill and Tony equivalent of the Ronnie and Maggie ones of the 1980s, but Mr Blair and Mr Clinton are far too shrewd and unsentimental to believe such nonsense.

Political conditions are very different across the Atlantic, but the leading lights in "new" Labour are close to many of Mr Clinton's advisers. They follow the policy and political debate in Washington. Their contacts have ranged from a study of campaigning techniques by Philip Gould, a key Labour media adviser who worked in Little Rock for part of the 1992 campaign, to the discussions of the policy problems of economic management and insecurity which Gordon Brown, and his adviser Ed Balls, regularly conduct with Robert Reich, Mr Clinton's Labour Secretary, and Larry Summers, the Deputy Treasury Secretary.

As a diplomat in the British Embassy in Washington, Blair's chief of staff, Jonathan Powell, monitored the Clinton campaign and arranged a visit there by Mr Blair and Mr Brown just after the inauguration. This visit and the addressing of a union-sponsored conference in Lon-



don by senior Clinton advisers led to charges that Labour was being Clintonised by the modernisers — and with the new President soon running into serious problems. Mr Blair cooled his public enthusiasm. But Blair and Brown and their advisers have been crucially influenced by the Clinton experience. At one level, they have learnt about campaign tactics — the need for rapid response and rebuttal of the other side's comments, and for adherence to a consistent and focused message. Even Labour's new centralised media headquarters in Millbank is modelled on the Clinton campaign's war room. More important are the strategic lessons: the importance of demonstrating that the party has changed, "new" Labour as much as "new" Democrat. This has involved showing

values and aspirations of ordinary people. The same buzzwords recur on both sides of the Atlantic: opportunity, responsibility, community, partnership. Mr Blair's catchphrase as Shadow Home Secretary — "tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime" — was directly influenced by the rethinking of Mr Clinton's advisers. This approach has also emphasised the importance of symbolic actions to highlight change, such as the rewriting of Clause Four and Gordon Brown's repeated claims that Labour will not spend and tax for its own sake. This campaign strategy took Mr Clinton to the White House, but it contained internally contradictory policies. It aimed to boost the

economy with an investment and training stimulus, while giving working people a tax cut, raising the taxes only of the very well-off, and taking action to cut the budget deficit. Not all of this could be achieved, and in office the Clinton Administration has been forced to drop the investment stimulus and make a priority of deficit reduction. The resulting budget package was impressive, but Mr Clinton did not receive much credit, since he had failed to fulfil his other promises. His most serious failing was inconsistency. After being elected as a "new" Democrat, he appeared to sprawl to the left in office, with rows over appointments and homosexuals in the military. Healthcare reform, his policy priority for his second year, went nowhere, and he surrendered the initiative to the Republicans, who triumphed in the mid-term elections

of November 1994. Mr Clinton has recently recovered by moving back to the centre and by sticking to a tough line on the budget with the Republican Congress.

Some of the problems of Mr Clinton's presidency stem from his personal flaws, or from Whitewater. But in so far as they do not, there are obvious lessons, which Mr Blair's team understand. First, be consistent. Gordon Brown is determined to prevent his colleagues from making spending commitments, or even finding a commitment, which can be used by the Tories as ammunition on which cannot be implemented in office. Mr Blair's decision, to ignore Labour members' last autumn on the party's draft manifesto is intended not only to gain the support of the whole party for the programme, but to show that it is coherent and achievable.

Labour's second lesson is to be disciplined. Mr Blair's operation is tightly and centrally run, to the irritation of many Labour MPs. The third is to have a clear plan for government. There is no danger that Mr Blair will sprawl to the left in Downing Street. But after being out of office for so long, his party must have clear priorities for legislation and action to prevent drift and to avoid being sidetracked into irrelevant rows.

The patchy record of the Clinton Administration, however, raises the question of whether there are weaknesses inherent in what the new Democrats and new Labour are trying to do, as well as in the implementation. It is all very well for Mr Blair to tell bankers and businessmen in New York that Labour has changed, that it is not trying to reverse Thatcherism, that it favours free trade, enterprise and inward investment. But removing the fear of Labour is not the same as showing that it can really make a difference.

The Clinton Administration has not so far produced solid evidence that government can help to improve long-term economic performance by a partnership with business. Mr Clinton's new Democrats, as well as Mr Blair's new Labour, have yet to prove they can govern as successfully as they can campaign.

## African queen

WHEN President Mandela visits Britain in July, his escort may have a faraway look in her eye. For Rochelle Mitrara, the woman most often seen by his side since his separation from Winnie Mandela, is said to be in love. A "granddaughter" of Mandela, in the sense that she is part of his extended tribal family, she is currently in the United States visiting her paramour, the South African footballer, Doctor Khumalo.

Khumalo, a hero of South Africa's recent victory in the African Nations Cup, sent Miss Mitrara an air ticket to join him in the United States two weeks ago. She is still there, staying with him while he plays football for the Columbus Crew in Ohio.

Miss Mitrara, who plans to resume her studies in either Britain or America, after dropping out of university recently, lives in the President's mansion in Johannesburg, and in addition to accompanying Mandela at official events in South Africa, she has been on several foreign trips. The President is said to be keeping abreast of the romantic developments.

His office would say only that Miss Mitrara was out of the

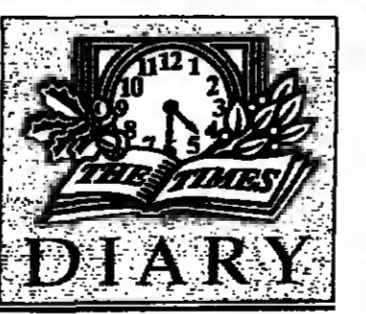


President's friend: Rochelle

country "for personal reasons", and Khumalo is also keeping shunt on the matter. "I have met her on several occasions," he gurgles, "and know her from a distance."

**Odd one out**  
EASTER brings rumblings at *The Catholic Herald*, home to some of the country's more thrusting Romans. The Editor, Cristina Odone, 36, an excitable brunette of Italian extraction who can often be found at the centre of a fawning crowd of liver-spoiled old men, is said to be on the point of leaving. Odone, known as The Odd One, is set to take a sabbatical from the dizzying pace of the *Herald* very soon. She is not expected to return. Having raised the profile of her rag, she is said to want to concentrate on her sex-and-surprise novel-writing, following the modest success of her first book, *The Shrine*.

**Blaired vision**  
WHILE Washington snoozes at the prospect of Tony Blair's visit this week, the excitement in Blair's London office is unbearable. It is not so much the issues being discussed that are causing the fuss



as the dribbling admiration that Blair's team are displaying for the pizza-scoffing, trainer-wearing apparatchiks of the White House.

As Peter Riddell explains above, Blair's tight coterie of advisers and spin-doctors closely matches the President's Staff. Both men have a penchant for youth, too. Where Blair has David Milliband, 30, and Tim Allen, 26, helping him with policy and the press respectively, Clinton has George Stephanopoulos, 34, doing both. "Blair's people are obsessed with the Clinton team," says an observer, "and with the way so many of them, like Stephanopoulos, have achieved this sort of pop star status." Do they remember, however, that one of the first ideas the Clinton campaign team offered Labour was the Sheffield rally which fin-

ished off Neil Kinnock's chances of beating John Major in 1992? Quibbles, it seems. "It's actually very sweet," says one close to Blair's crew. "It's like Orpington Seconds visiting Manchester United for a training session."

When Blair hits New York this week, he may see some of the bumperstickers currently being distributed by Sidney Blumenthal, a writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. Alongside the regular "Clinton/Gore in '96" stickers are others



"I've got something on Blair too — fifty quid to win the election"

designed to irritate Bob Dole, the 72-year-old Republican candidate who is having trouble convincing the country that he has enough of the vital juices left in him to be President. Blumenthal's sticker reads simply: "Bob Dole is 96."

**Foxed**  
ATTENTION all hunting folk: the British Field Sports Society needs you. Robin Hanbury-Tenison, recently appointed chief executive of the society, has been shocked by the apathy of his members. Last month he sent a round-robin to his 80,000 members asking for help in the campaign for country sports. Only 950 replies came back.

A plea for help in recruiting new members was even less of a success, with only 50 people bothering to reply. "That's not even 0.1 per cent," howls Hanbury-Tenison. "What are all the rest doing?" With the infiltration and neutering of the anti-hunting RSPCA on his agenda, H-T has no time to rest. Calling all those who hunt but don't join the society "plain free-loaders", he has now harrumphed off round the country to raise support by himself.

Swimmers of the Kenington New Pools in west London are exci-



Making waves: Damon

ted about their latest fellow paddler: Damon Albarn, lead singer of the pop group Blur. Albarn, who can regularly be seen touting his hair in shop windows down the Portobello Road, has set the women's changing room, and certain corners of the men's, alight by punishing his skinny frame with lengths in the pool. "Lots of women are not wearing their swimming caps any more," says my spy in the deep end. "They want to look their best just in case Damon swims into them."

P.H.S

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# ENLISTING THE ALMIGHTY

Politics and piety do not mix in election campaigns

Since Tony Blair became leader, Labour has made an audacious success of claiming new converts. From the defection of the Conservative MP Alan Howarth to yesterday's report that his party is now more middle class than the Tories, Mr Blair has contrived to cast his net wider than other fishers of men. But one claim of support for new Labour may be as likely to insult as inspire.

In an otherwise thoughtful interview the Labour leader sought to sign up God for his own brand of Socialism. Mr Blair was careful to say his values rather than his policies were divinely inspired. But by seeking, however obliquely, to appropriate the Almighty's approval for his personal crusade Mr Blair is making a mistake.

In his interview in *The Sunday Telegraph* Mr Blair showed himself alive to the dangers of politicians creeping into the pulpit. He claimed: "I can't stand politicians who wear God on their sleeves." After this spiritual health warning he spoke with intelligence and honesty about the importance of his faith. The British are often embarrassed by public discussion of private belief, but Mr Blair dealt delicately with the importance of Christianity in his inner life.

He faltered when he tried to justify by faith his current politics. He argued: "My view of Christian values led me to oppose what I perceive to be the narrow view of self-interest that Conservatism — particularly in its modern, more right-wing, form — represents." He argued that it was his religion that was the "essential reason why I am on the left rather than the right." He may have protested that "I do not believe that Christians should vote only Labour". But the impression from his other comments is that Christians can hardly vote Conservative.

Mr Blair is no stranger to arrogance and never slow to demonise his enemies, although seldom so literally. He once described his critics on the left as in need of therapy. Now he seems to be arguing that his opponents on the right require salvation. The implication of his remarks is that

sincere Christians who are Conservatives such as Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, and Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, are either prepared to ignore their religious principles, or have not the character to put them into practice. Mr Blair's references to Pontius Pilate as the archetypal politician suggest that those currently in authority are hypocritical and weak.

This is not the first time that Mr Blair has sought to enlist the Almighty. His last Labour conference speech was evangelical in tone and biblical in its rhetoric. His biographers have emphasised his churchgoing. He defended his choice of a grant-maintained school for his son on, among others, religious grounds. The depth of his beliefs does him credit. But his attempts to exploit them for political ends do not. Christian principles do not belong to any party.

If Mr Blair wishes to convert Conservatives he should rely on the strength of his policies, not a display of his piety. There is, however, one Bible lesson the Tories should bear in mind this Easter: they should take joy in sinners who repent. Dispatch of a dossier to Republicans in the US made up of past comments by Mr Blair and his wife, alleged to show them "anti-nuclear and anti-American", is unconvincing and unattractive. Opposition politicians abroad, by convention, do not attack their country's Government. The governing party should not stoop to this kind of attack on an opposition politician when he is visiting a friendly head of state.

Mr Blair may not have fought Labour's unilateralists with the vigour of some of his colleagues but he was never a stooge of the hard Left. Many of Labour's instincts are anti-American, but he is an admirer of the country and its President. Both parties would do the voters a service if they concentrated on justifying their programme for government instead of making unjustified attacks on their opponents' character.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Examination of Oxford's efficiency and ability to adapt

*From Professor R. L. Smith*

Sir, As a British-born academic who has just resigned a chair at Cambridge to return to the United States, I find myself very much in agreement with the criticisms of Oxford University made by Coopers & Lybrand (re: report, April 1), and am not convinced by the defence put up by Roger Scruton ("In praise of useless knowledge", April 2).

During my two years at Cambridge I have lost track of the time I have spent in committees debating such matters as whether there should be four questions or five in a particular examination paper, or shuffling pieces of paper from college office to departmental office to university office administrations are capable of talking to each other.

There is much more to "efficiency" than mere cost calculations. It is not a matter of putting quantitative research goals above all else, as Scruton implies, but of getting on with the job we are paid to do — which is both teaching and research. Most of my Cambridge colleagues are highly conscientious and effective teachers, as well as top-quality researchers, but they are held back by the system.

Even college tutorials, so beloved by Professor Scruton, have many hidden costs. It is difficult to create a new course, or to make substantial changes to an existing one, without the agreement of a large number of college tutors or supervisors. Syllabi get out of date because they are so hard to change.

My only surprise about the Coopers & Lybrand report is that the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford had to hire outside consultants to find out what any reasonably well-travelled academic could have told him for nothing.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD SMITH,  
University of Cambridge,  
Department of Pure Mathematics  
and Mathematical Statistics,  
16 Mill Lane, Cambridge.

summary of the report from Coopers & Lybrand and especially in the article by Roger Scruton. I wonder how selective the management consultants were in their interviewing.

It is not my experience that "there is no stimulus for change in the curriculum". As a result of changes introduced in the last two years, the engineering science degree has a new syllabus and a new structure, the physicists have brought in a new four-year course and the university now offers brand new degrees in computation and in economics and management. The degree course on which I teach is vastly different from my own undergraduate course in the same department less than twenty years ago.

As for the Oxford which Roger Scruton describes, it is closer to the Oxford of today. "Scholars live side by side with their pupils," he writes. Very few dons nowadays live in college, and final-year options in the sciences are usually taught in small classes rather than tutorials.

Excellence in research, scholarship and teaching are not mutually incompatible in a modern university; indeed, it is the link between research and teaching which is often the stimulus for the kind of curriculum changes alluded to above.

The real question for the Vice-Chancellor's commission of inquiry is how best to enhance our ability to carry out world-class research whilst maintaining our traditional strengths, in teaching for example.

This goal, I believe, is attainable provided that we allow facilities enough independence to resolve the problem in a way which is optimal for their discipline.

Yours faithfully,  
L. TARASSENKO,  
University of Oxford,  
Department of Engineering Science,  
Parks Road, Oxford,  
April 2.

had a successful commercial career in international advertising, living and working throughout Europe, the Middle East and China, learning the different languages and cultures — thanks to my "useless" tutorial education in Latin, Greek and ancient philosophy.

If a bunch of purblind accountants takes over the Oxford system, I shall happily hand back my degree.

Yours sincerely,  
TIM DYSON,  
Tim Dyson Associates,  
2 Investment House,  
Queen's Road,  
Weybridge, Surrey,  
April 2.

*From Mr Adam Shapiro and Mr Stephen Royle*

Sir, The purpose of the Coopers & Lybrand inquiry was to show how the best of Oxford — scholarship and the perpetuation of knowledge for its own sake — could be preserved and strengthened against ravages of outsiders. These ravages include government cuts when student numbers are rising, new funding formulae and worldwide competition for the best staff and students.

The report did not come out against the college system. Nor did it come out against the tutorial system, observing it to be the "Rolls-Royce" of teaching methods.

These were not in its remit for consideration. It considered the governance of the university and made recommendations concerning how power may best be exercised by those academics most directly affected.

Oxford has survived since the 13th century by recognising that when things are wrong, they should be put right. Antiquity of abuse is no excuse for its continuance.

Yours faithfully,  
ADAM SHAPIRO  
(President,  
Oxford University Student Council),  
STEPHEN ROYLE  
(Junior member, Hebdomadal Council),  
Oxford University Student Union,  
28 Little Clarendon Street, Oxford,  
April 2.

## Property laws on island of Sark

*From Sir Peter Miller*

Sir, Lord McAlpine's article, "The strange goings-on in Sark" (April 4), is itself somewhat strange.

For a member of the House of Lords to criticise another parliament for "pomp and ceremony... quaint traditions" and lack of democracy is a bit rich. Moreover, the article is flawed by errors and omissions.

Lord McAlpine does not mention the 12 People's Deputies who are elected to the Chief Pleas. While divorce is not possible on the island, Sark recognises divorces effected elsewhere. The policeman (or Constable) is elected by Chief Pleas, not by the Seigneur. Our lay magistrate has as much common sense as an English lay magistrate.

A lot is expected of the Seigneur as the island's chief representative. He receives no remuneration for his duties, beyond a feudal tax of derisory proportions; this is the justification for the treizieme tax when property changes hands.

The inheritance laws of Sark are certainly complicated and may well be worthy of debate. However, it is possible to transfer property between the generations in accordance with the wishes of the owner, although it may involve a tax of 7.7 per cent. Is this too high an inheritance tax in an island which has no income tax?

The Sark system, of which the noble lord is so critical, works well. The island's civil service is cost-effective; there is no "national debt". While there certainly are serious problems (cost of teenage education and care of the elderly) I wonder if the interests of affluent outsiders (in which category I include myself, however low on the scale) should have a high priority for attention?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER MILLER  
(Member of Chief Pleas),  
La Ville Roussel,  
Sark, Channel Islands,  
April 6.

## AIR MAIL

### The Post Office moves into the travel business

"The nearest gateway to the outside world may soon be the Post Office. If an experiment in selling cheap airline tickets from one of London's biggest branch offices proves successful, flights to Majorca, Berlin, New York and beyond may be departing from a counter near you. The Post Office, like other retailers with corporate sights set on the lucrative travel business, hopes that up to 600 of its outlets will soon be competing with high street bucket shops. Privatisation may no longer be an option for the Post Office; but there are now no limits on the government agency's appetite for free market competition.

The six-month trial at the Trafalgar Square office is a logical extension of the Post Office's growing involvement in travel. It already sells traveller's cheques, travel insurance, foreign currency and handles passport application forms. The plan is to sell out-price tickets for seats unsold on scheduled airlines; there are no proposals to offer package holidays. This would not bring the Post Office into direct competition with travel agents, which on the whole do not handle left-over seats. But airlines will benefit enormously: by definition, last-minute vacancies are not available for long, and if they are to sell they must be posted on a computer network that can reach millions of potential travellers quickly. The public, instead of having to search out backstreet shops with a fly-by-night reputation, will know where to look for bargains. The Post Office's solid reputation should dispel fears that such deals are unreliable.

There is still a risk — largely for the Post Office. Unless the plan is thoroughly rehearsed, the potential for a public relations disaster is enormous. Passengers who

buy such tickets may be the first to be bumped, should overbooking mask the real availability. The Post Office will be the first target of their ire. Post Office customers queuing to engage in such old-fashioned transactions as buying stamps or posting parcels will not restrain their patience if the pensioner ahead of them demands a trawl through the list of cheap flights to Bermuda. Unless this new business is clearly separated from core Post Office activities, it will bring not profit but bricksbats.

Profit is already not in doubt. The Post Office is one of the great money-making branches of government. Over the next three years it will pay in £920 million to the Treasury. Turning around a loss-making industry was never the rationale for privatisation; indeed it was the success of the streamlined agency's components that roused even Conservative opposition to Michael Heseltine's plans — explained only in ideological terms — to sell its golden goose. The Post Office has already been imbued with the enterprise culture, so much so that Bill Cockburn, its former chief executive, was snatched in January by WH Smith to lend his expertise to the private sector.

Privatisation, however, would have been a signal for the Post Office, with its enviable reach into almost every British town and village, to exploit untrammelled its unique access and name recognition. Post Office Counters has not needed encouragement to go down this road. Already smaller branches are becoming all-purpose general stores. Adding new services is commercially as well as politically attractive. It lifts the horizons of this once stuffy institution well beyond the shores of Britain.

## Torode answers Levin

*From Mr John Torode*

Sir, I was horrified by Bernard Levin's quite bizarre article ("The sins of the father", April 5) which, no doubt unintentionally, gravely distorts a piece I wrote three months ago for the *Daily Mail*. In it I tried to unravel the relatively minor role my father played for the Communist International, primarily as a Soviet courier into Nazi Germany in the mid-1930s, and the pressure that may subsequently have been imposed on him by the Soviet Union.

As I thought my affectionate and respectful article made clear, he was a brave and honourable man who risked his life in the struggle against Nazism. He misjudged the nature of Stalinism at a time when many others did so. He gradually broke with the Communist Party of Great Britain after the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939. Subsequently, as a trade union general secretary, he was active in the post-war purging of communists from the London Trades Council, one of the crucial moments in the Cold War struggle to ensure that the British trade union movement did not fall under communist control.

To describe him as a "traitor" is a grotesque travesty of my article, my beliefs — and of the evidence. And to draw parallels between my position and that of the children of Germans who gassed Jews is stupid, offensive and inaccurate. It is equally offensive and inaccurate to suggest that I might have considered suicide on discovery of my father's role.

Far from going to my grave with my father's brand on my chest, as Levin writes, I will go to my grave proud to have been his son and proud of his record.

Yours etc,  
JOHN TORODE,  
25 Platt's Lane, SW3,  
April 7.

## Cairngorm funicular

*From the Chief Executive of the Cairngorm Chairlift Company*

Sir, The letter from Sir Chris Bouington and others (March 27) suggesting that the Secretary of State for Scotland should intervene in the planning for the proposed Cairngorm funicular railway contains an inaccuracy.

The funicular will be a straightforward, albeit much improved, replacement for our obsolete 35-year-old chairlift system. It will not go to the summit, as suggested, but duplicate the chairlift route, ending at the existing top station at 3,600ft, 464ft below the summit of Cairn Gorm.

Facilities in the Ptarmigan building at the top station no longer adequately serve our winter market. The new building is larger but is sited half a mile horizontally from the plateau.

It will offer an effective system for visitor management and for the first time protect the summit and plateau area from wandering feet by ensuring that non-skiing visitors out of season are contained within the ski area.

The company is actively pursuing a sensitive and sustainable development programme consistent both with the preservation of our superb

environment and the needs and aspirations of our local communities.

Yours sincerely,  
TIM WHITTOME, Chief Executive,  
Cairngorm Chairlift Company,  
Avoiemore, Highland Region,  
April 6.

*From Mr Ian J. Wade*

Sir, I realise that I enter the lion's den when I take issue with the eminent list of presidents of the Alpine Club. However, to someone like me who knows the Cairngorm area well, their assertion that "this proposal would do irreversible damage to one of Europe's most important wild areas, both in landscape and nature-conservation terms", seems way over the top when the building of the railway would affect perhaps no more than 1 per cent of the vast Cairngorm area.

More relevant is the fact that, in a recent poll, the vast majority of the local populace, in an area where job prospects are very bleak, expressed themselves in favour of the project.

Yours etc,  
IAN J. WADE,  
32 Belmont Road,  
Harrow, Middlesex,  
March 27.

## Storm over cuppa

*From Mrs S. E. Ellis*

Sir, Anyone born and bred in Devon knows that scones (letter, March 30) should be split whilst still warm from the oven, thickly coated with clotted cream and crowned with home-made raspberry jam. Cream with treacle atop delights in the title "Thunder and lightning". Butter has no role to play at all.

Yours faithfully,  
SUSAN ELLIS,  
17 Manton Hollow,  
Marlborough, Wiltshire,  
April 4.

## Hymns for occasions

*From Mrs Lorna Boyce*

Sir, Our daughter, a slightly apprehensive traveller, insists that we play the hymn *Eternal Father, strong to save*, whenever she crosses the Channel by ferry.

We wondered what we should play when she flew to Germany recently and eventually selected *He who would waltz be 'Gaiest all disaster reinforced by All my hope on God is founded*.

Is there a more appropriate hymn and also one which would be suitable for the Channel Tunnel, should she brave its perils in the future?

Yours sincerely,  
LORNA BOYCE,  
Offa's Dyke, 7 Brynawel,  
Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan,  
April 6.

## Aptly named

*From Mr Christopher Barrass and Mr Tim Towle*

Sir, "Far from protecting human rights, therefore" (letter, April 3), "Baroness Turner's Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill would diminish them." SOD's law?

Yours etc,  
CHRISTOPHER BARRASS,  
TIM TOWLE,  
Corporate Communications,  
Brackende Road,  
Oak Grange House, Guildford, Surrey,  
April 3.

## MAMPRUGIPUIGINABA

### A Norfolk teacher puts on the robes of tribal office

To be anointed a tribal chief in northern Ghana is an honour as ancient and elaborate as it is colourful. Enthroned on sheepskin and woven cushions, draped in red and black robes, presented with a carved wooden stick, the recipient is blessed by elders and acclaimed by drums and ululating dancers. When such an honour is bestowed on a Norfolk schoolteacher who spends her professional life conducting sixth-form chemistry classes at Hethersett Old Hall, it is a joyful signal of an exceptional achievement by an exceptional woman. Lynne Symonds was yesterday granted a right never before given to a white woman: the title of Mamprugipuginaba, meaning a chieftain of the Mamprusi tribe. She now has literally the power of life and death over her adopted subjects; but it is for her vital contribution to the tribe's life that she has been honoured.

Mrs Symonds has brought the priceless gift of learning to Wulugu, one of the most underdeveloped villages in northern Ghana. For the past year she has cajoled and persuaded British schools and well-wishers to raise enough money to build a well stocked library in Wulugu. Five students, as a result, have gained entrance to university. Now she is helping to build a boarding house for the 80 girl pupils. The villages have nothing with which to repay her except their

gratitude — and their ancestral honours.

Most countries express gratitude to foreigners who establish a special rapport with their citizens or who perform the state some signal service. Churchill was an honorary American citizen, Eisenhower an honorary Londoner. George Bush and Caspar Weinberger can call themselves knights, though may not use the title; a handful of Britons can wear in their lapels the ribbon of the Légion d'honneur. For an African country, however, to admit to the ranks of its revered elders a white woman from the nation of its former colonial rulers is more exotic and more flattering. The ceremonies and the circumstances may have a touch of Rider Haggard about them; but that only adds to the frisson of the occasion.

By presenting Mrs Symonds to the Nayiri, the Paramount Chief, the pupils and villagers of Wulugu have drawn international attention to what she has done. Her gifts of literature and science are, of course, keys to advancement for the impoverished. But the value lies in her personal engagement on behalf of her adopted village. Mrs Symonds is not a charity worker or a Unesco official: she is a teacher from an ordinary English village. Personal friendships bind and inspire more than any aid programme. To those who nourish such human links belong tribal honour and glory.

## Newspaper records

*From Mr M. M. Charlish*

Sir, I recently sought to identify an undated and unnamed newspaper cutting given me by an old comrade about important actions in which the Wessex reconnaissance regiment had been involved during 1945, and which I needed to identify for regimental archives. My inquiries revealed that of a number of West Country newspapers, some — no names, no pack drill — had no records before 1950.

In spite of considerable help kindly given freely by the Gloucestershire and Avon library services, I had no option but to follow their advice and search in the British Newspaper Library at Colindale, northwest London. Fortunately my wife and I were able to visit successfully in one day, which might have been impossible (or very expensive) for someone having to travel far.

Some newspaper records are not even available at Colindale, and alternative sources are thus particularly valuable.

Local newspapers must be made financially strong enough to support the retention of their own records.

Yours faithfully,  
M. McEWEN CHARLISH,  
132 Park Lane, Carshalton, Surrey.

## Polish march past

*From Mr Michael George Olizar*

Sir, The finer points of military drill are probably as difficult to judge as steps in ballroom dancing. It is therefore, perhaps, understandable that Alan Hamilton (report, March 26) should have confused the march of the Polish guard of honour before the Queen in Warsaw, with the Russian goose step.

The Polish step is indigenous and smoother and there would be no reason for it, as Mr Hamilton suggests, to be abolished if Poland ever joins Nato.

Earlier British journalists have made a similar mistake. When in 1940, in Scotland, Polish units marched past King George VI and Queen Elizabeth it was suggested that their step was akin to the German goose step and would have to be changed.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL GEORGE OLIZAR,  
18 Hazelwell Road, Putney, SW15,  
April 1.

## Hector the Inspector

*From Mr Charles P. F. Baillie*

Sir, The Head of Communications, Inland Revenue, informs us (letter, March 30) that the "several hundred key frontline staff" who were given a "special preview" of the Revenue's latest advertising campaign gave "a spontaneous round of applause". Could they not have been better employed?

Yours faithfully,  
C. P. F. BAILLIE,  
3 West End Farm, Locking,  
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset,  
April 1.

## Lottery awards

*From Mr Jez Hall*

Sir, A revision of the rules for the distribution of lottery awards to encompass grants to talented sports and arts students is to be welcomed (report, April 2), but why should sports and the arts be singled out?

Unlike when I was a student in the early Seventies, students of all academic disciplines are now forced by the system to take out loans.

Why are we not using lottery funds to restore the grant system to all those with talent by they future doctors, teachers, or even Secretaries of State for Heritage?

Yours faithfully,  
JEZ HALL,  
42 Newcastles, Newburgh,  
Wigan, Greater Manchester,  
April 2.

## In the chair

*From Mr F. J. Mellor*

Sir, I believe that the most effective debunking of the monstrous verbal circumlocutions perpetrated in the name of political correctness (letters, March 23, 27, 30, April 1) may lie with the Tory opposition leader of an inner London borough where the newly elected Labour council, drunk with success and crusading zeal, is said to have spent 1½ hours debating whether to use the term "chairman/woman", "chairperson" or "chair".

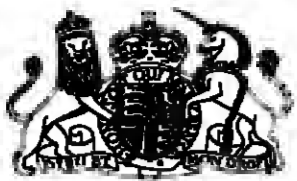
At the conclusion of the debate they decided on "chair", whereupon the opposition leader rose and said: "Chair, may I introduce myself to the new members? I am the opposition spoke."

Yours etc,  
F. J. MELLOR,  
16 Newhouse Crescent,  
Norden,  
Rochdale, Lancashire,  
April 2.

a flies  
n mile  
comet  
of stone







COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE, ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 6: The Duchess of Kent, as Guest of Honour, this afternoon attended the Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race...

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will be briefed on repairs to the Forth Bridge at the viewing area adjacent to the North Cantilever, North Queensferry, at 10.20...

Birthdays

Mr Tony Banks, MP, 53; Mr Hywel Bennett, actor, 52; Mr Mark Blundell, racing driver, 30; Sir Andrew Bowden, MP, 66...

Church of Scotland

Appointments
Ordinations and inductions
The Rev Neil Gow to Blair Atholl and Struan...

University news

Queen Mary and Westfield College
Appointments and promotions
Chair of Molecular Biology: Dr C P Lichtenstein, Lecturer in Genetic Engineering, Imperial College...



Zara Phillips, daughter of the Princess Royal, leaving the Deaery yesterday ahead of Prince William and Captain Timothy Laurence after the Royal Family had attended the Easter Day service at St George's Chapel, Windsor

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Loudon, horticulturist, Cambuslang, Strathclyde, 1783; Dionysius Solomos, poet, Zante, Greece, 1798; Sir Arthur Streeton, Australian painter, Victoria, 1867...

DEATHS: El Greco, painter, Toledo, 1614; Karl von Humboldt, philosopher and educator, Tegel, Germany, 1835; Elisha Otis, pioneer of the safety lift, Yorkers, New York, 1861...

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's steamship Great Western sailed from Bristol on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic to New York, 1838. King Zog of Albania abdicated, 1939. The League of Nations held its final meeting, 1946. In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta was convicted for his involvement with the Mau-Mau, 1953.

Royal Society of Edinburgh

Lord Dalmon, Lord Tombs and the Archbishop of Glasgow have been elected Honorary Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The following have been elected as Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh: Colin Kerr Ballantyne, Professor of Physical Geography, University of St Andrews...

Engineering, University of Newcastle upon Tyne; Thomas Douglas Macpharlin Gifford, Reader, Department of Souths Literature, University of Glasgow; Ian James Graham-Bryce, Principal & Vice-Chancellor, University of Dundee...

University of Dundee; Andrew David McGie, Professor of Computer Science, University of Strathclyde; James Clark St Clair, Sean McKee, Professor of Mathematics, University of Strathclyde...

University of St Andrews; James Shepherd, Professor of Pathological Biochemistry, University of Glasgow; David MacFie, Professor of Mathematics, University of Strathclyde...

Nature notes

THE first swallows are back from South Africa. They are light, elegant flyers, bypassing each other over rivers and lakes in pursuit of flying insects. Some house-martins have also been seen, but most of them will arrive towards the end of the month...



Chiffchaff: clinking song

pass up the coast in most springs, but they do not stay to breed. Leaves are still reluctant to appear on the trees. On ash trees there are purple clusters of flowers around the black leaf-buds...

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DEATHS
EDWARDS - April 6th 1996
Mary Down, aged 82 years of Balcombe, West Sussex, widow of John Hewlett Edwards and dear mother of Fay, Lorna and Peter...

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Mary Down, aged 82 years of Balcombe, West Sussex, widow of John Hewlett Edwards and dear mother of Fay, Lorna and Peter...

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NOTICE OF MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the One Hundred and Seventieth Annual General Meeting of the Members of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society will be held in the principal office, Amicable House, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ, on Tuesday, 23rd April 1996, at 4.00 pm.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
THE BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES, 0171 481 9313

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.



OBITUARIES

Judge attacks Howard reforms

Former Master of the Bench yesterday attacked Howard's White Paper on the election of judges...

Over 200 TB tests

More than 200 members of the opera house staff at the Metropolitan Opera have been tested for tuberculosis...

Living charge

Princess of Wales has been charged with living charge for her role in the divorce proceedings...

Baria sets sail

Baria sets sail for a new chapter in her life, following the death of her husband...

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Baria sets sail for a new chapter in her life, following the death of her husband...

Greer Garson, actress, died on April 6 aged 92. She was born on September 29, 1903.

GREER GARSON



Greer Garson with Walter Pidgeon in Mrs. Miniver, 1942

GREER GARSON was one of Hollywood's most bankable women stars during the Second World War. She was not a stunning beauty, but a proud, intelligent-looking actress who arrived in Hollywood at exactly the right time...

It was set in an England which had never existed, a chocolate box world of rickety-strewn villages, landed gentry and old family retainers...

Mrs Miniver was only one of a series of wifely roles for Garson. She liked to say that MGM stood, in her case, for 'Metro's Glorious Mrs's'.

This was unfair, because Garson had taken on a fairly wide range of roles, particularly in youth. Some of the blame for her diminishing popularity after the war must be laid firmly at the door of her studio, MGM, which provided her with some extremely poor vehicles after the success of Mrs. Miniver.

She acted in her first piece of premeditated entertainment - a medieval bric-a-brac about princesses and dragons - at the age of four, and seized every opportunity to act thereafter.

'kicking her legs on a stage' for a profession, and for a while it seemed that Garson's blue-stocking tendencies might yet see her onto a more respectable career path as a teacher.

It was during a day studying in the British Museum, where she was meant to be immersed in French literature, that Garson - watching the bent backs of the old museum servants - revolted. She decided to give up her studies, and to set herself up as a freelance writer instead.

Once more she impulsively decided on a change of career, and auditioned for the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Her first role was Shirley Kaplan in Street Scene. Then followed a chance meeting at the University Women's Club in London with the playwright Sylvia Thompson, and Garson was given the leading part in Thompson's The Golden Arrow (1935).

During the last of these plays, Old Music (1937), Garson was being watched from the audience by an enthusiastic Louis B. Mayer, and he, impressed by her beauty and poise, offered her a year's contract with MGM.

with physical violence should she ever desert the stage for the screen. Money has a quiet charm, she reflected when she had reached the shores of America.

The attractions of a steady pay cheque may have enticed her there, but to begin with at least, MGM offered her little in the way of a decent part. In time-honoured studio fashion, they spent their first year sizing up their new property, and vainly searching for a vehicle.

With good timing, MGM then offered her a chance to play in Goodbye Mr Chips (1939) which was to be filmed in England, and though she was worried that the part was a mousy one - that of Mr Chips's saintly wife who dies twenty minutes into the film - she quickly agreed.

Garson then appeared in a witless comedy called Remember? (Let's not, she said afterwards), before being cast as Elizabeth Bennett in Aldous Huxley's screen version of Pride and Prejudice (1940).

opportunity to show that her reputation in London as a comedian was not unfounded, and she did not display much subtlety. But again, it was an animated, bouncing film, and it helped to confirm her growing stature in Hollywood.

There followed Blossoms in the Dust (1941), her first film opposite Walter Pidgeon, with Garson playing Mrs Edna Gladney, founder of a state orphanage, and campaigner to remove the stigma of illegitimacy from children born out of wedlock.

With America still wavering between isolationism and intervention in the war, production on Mrs Miniver got under way, with Garson again playing opposite Pidgeon. Other actresses had already blanchered at the idea of playing a wife and mother with grown-up children and had rejected the role.

The success of the film encouraged MGM to work on more British-American films. Of these Rounding Harvest (1942), with Ronald Colman, kept the propaganda to a minimum, but again had Garson playing the noble, faithful wife. She was becoming

worried about typecasting, but the film did at least afford her the chance to defy her grandmother, by appearing in a kilt and showing that she also had excellent legs.

With the ending of the war, Garson's popularity started to suffer a slow but irremediable decline. She made a film with Clark Gable, who was newly-released from service, called Adventure, about a romance between a librarian and a sailor.

Garson - apart from reaching a difficult age for an actress - had also in 1949 married her third and last husband, 'Buddy' Fogelson. Fogelson was a Texas oil millionaire and philanthropist, and Garson now had no need to work.

She could now afford to accept scripts only when she wanted to, and in this semi-retired state she spent the rest of her life. Dissatisfied with the way MGM had been handling her career, she was released from her contract in 1954.

Because of that one intense moment of wartime popularity, however, Garson's reputation among the cinematically literate remained remarkably well preserved.

Greer Garson was married three times, the first time to Edward Snelson, a British civil servant. That marriage ended in divorce. Her second marriage was to Richard Ney, who had played her son in Mrs Miniver (the two met on set). That marriage too ended in divorce.

BARNEY EWELL



Barney Ewell, Olympic sprinter, died in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on April 4 aged 78. He was born there on February 25, 1918.

A WIRY, leanly-muscled figure who sprang like a greyhound from the traps at the crack of the starter's gun, Barney Ewell was one of the world's most renowned sprinters during the years immediately before and after the Second World War.

Barney Ewell, always known by his nickname Barney, showed athletic prowess at an early age. However, he was one of that unfortunate generation of athletes to reach their prime during the years of the Second World War when the Olympic Games could not be staged.

On demobilisation he completed his university degree, keeping up his physical training all the while, and in 1948, although at the age of 30 he was considered well past his athletic best, he equalled the 100-metre world record of 10.2 seconds in the final of the United States Olympic trials.

Ewell took one gold and two silver medals in the London Olympics, although after one of the races his American exuberance won him some disapproval from his reserved English hosts. In the final of the 100 metres he dashed across the line neck-and-neck with his fellow American Harrison Dillard. Believing that he had crossed first, Ewell raised his arms above his head and cavorted down the track.

When he did win gold, as part of the 400 meter relay team, the race was also tinged with controversy. The US team finished six yards ahead of the British team, but were disqualified when a judge ruled that the first pass between Ewell and one of his team mates took place beyond the legal zone. It was only three days after the medal ceremony that an appeals jury, having viewed films of the race, rescinded the disqualification.

In later years, Ewell returned to live in his birthplace where he was treated as a local hero. However, tragically for someone who had earned his fame as a runner, both of his legs had to be partially amputated. It was from complications arising from this that he died.

GORDON CLOUGH

Gordon Clough, radio journalist, died after a long illness on April 6 aged 61. He was born on August 26, 1934.

A VETERAN anchorman of British radio, Gordon Clough was gifted with the broadcaster's art of turning a conversation into an essay.

His 1987 File on 4 series, A Revolution Without Shots, was perhaps the most vivid report made at the time on the new glasnost in the Soviet Union.

Over the course of a long career dedicated to the BBC, Clough interviewed all the major players on the world scene, many of them well before they came to positions of great prominence.

One, the flagship of BBC radio news, as well as the World This Weekend and the PM programme.

His special area of interest, however, and the one in which he was an acknowledged master, was the Soviet Union.

Arthur Gordon Clough was born in Salford, Lancashire, and educated locally at Bolton School from which he won a scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he read French and Russian.

and Ashes of Empire (1991) were worthy successors to this. Clough also won a Sony Award in 1984 for his work as a presenter on The World This Weekend, voted the best current affairs programme.

Arthur Gordon Clough was born in Salford, Lancashire, and educated locally at Bolton School from which he won a scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he read French and Russian.

broadcast in 1965 as a lively current affairs programme, replacing the previous ragbag of news repeats with sharper, more popular and less reverent commentary.

He found a desert and created an 'orchard' commentary, one of the most popular and distinguished journalists.

His full deep voice, belying a short stocky stature, soon became one of the most popular in radio journalism.

deferential or sycophantic, his acute questions and sardonic sense of humour went straight to the point.

As well as presenting The World of One, The World This Weekend and PM Clough could be heard on Europhile and Twenty Four Hours broadcast over the BBC World Service.

Outside his radio career Clough translated several books into English: five from the Russian, including the dissident Alexander Zinoviev's epic score on Soviet bureaucracy The Yawning Heights (1979); and three from the French.

also presented Round Europe Quiz and Transatlantic Quiz. But gradually a prolonged illness took its toll on Clough.

His voice was robbed of its earlier clarity and in his last interviews he audibly fought for breath. In April 1994 he submitted his last report for Europhile, and the BBC let go one of its best-loved voices.

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Church news

Church in Wales

Diocese of Bangor

Appointments: The Rev Madeline Brady to be Bishop's Officer for Co-ordinating the Lay Ministry, Diocesan Press Officer and Assistant Curate, Rural Deanery of Arllechwedd.

Appointments: The Rev Brooke Kingsmill-Lunn, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Stroud Green (London); to be also a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

Wokingham (Oxford): to be Rector, Holy and High Kelling (Norwich). The Rev Dr Robert Love, Priest-in-charge, St Elisabeth, Beckenham; to be Vicar, St John and St Matthew, South Horchurch (Chelmsford).

The Rev Clare Pipe-Wolferstan, Honorary Curate, St Mary Redcliffe in Temple, Bristol; and St John the Baptist, Bedminster; to be Honorary Curate, East Bristol (Bristol).

The Rev Roy Smith, Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Stonebridge (London); to be also a Prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral.

CONSECRATION OF THE CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE

Yesterday, the imposing Central Synagogue recently built in Great Portland Street, was consecrated by the Chief Rabbi, the Rev Dr Adler.

ON THIS DAY

April 8, 1870

The first synagogue in London was opened in 1857 after Cromwell allowed the Jews (banished in 1200) to return to England. The Central Synagogue, London's Jewish Cathedral in Duke's Place, Aldgate, opened in 1722 with all its treasures it was destroyed during the Blitz.

Montefiore. There is no permanent pulpit, but a light casket pulpit was drawn to the front of the marble dais in front of the ark and from this central and elevated position the Chief Rabbi preached the sermon. Dr Adler was understood to refer to the Central Synagogue as the type and embodiment of the great central organisation of their charity and religion in the metropolis. It would represent the union of the various Hebrew congregations, as the Jewish religion itself was the centre of faith of all those creeds of mankind which deserved the name of religion.



NEWS

Labour to target hereditary peers

Labour is planning to abolish hereditary peers' voting rights as soon as it comes to power in the first step towards an elected House of Lords.

Tony Blair has made clear his disdain of the 770 hereditary peers, whom he described as "Tory voting fodder", and party workers are considering bringing in a Bill to strip them of their powers within the first six months of government.

Teenagers' writing skills in decline

A significant slide in teenagers' writing skills since 1980 has been revealed by a unique comparison of English O-level scripts with GCSE examination papers. Researchers concluded that candidates who clearly failed O level would now be receiving a grade C or better at GCSE English, said to be the equivalent of an O-level pass.

Ulster 'faces war'

Gerry Kelly, the convicted IRA bomber and leading Republican strategist, told a Sinn Fein and IRA rally, that Northern Ireland faced a war situation.

Pet hate

An estimated 100,000 expatriates on the Côte d'Azur are united in a campaign that should worry John Major — they are determined to overturn or flout British anti-rabies laws.

Cleric backs Blair

A senior churchman publicly threw his support behind Tony Blair after the Labour leader engaged Conservatives by linking politics and religion and suggested the Bible had taught him he could never be a Tory.

New virus

The discovery of a new hepatitis strain — hepatitis G — led to calls for patients to use their own blood in transfusions. This latest virus is probably carried by more than 800,000 in the UK.

Windor roundup

Members of the Royal Family, including the Queen, helped police and the Household Cavalry to recover 75 polo ponies stampered by a late-night fire near Windsor Castle.

Korean alert

American troops in South Korea were put on high alert at the weekend as a third incursion of armed North Korean soldiers into the demilitarised zone raised tensions in the divided peninsula.

Prayers for victim

Prayers were said in Serb Orthodox churches across Britain for Srejan Popovic, 74, who died after being mugged.

Arms swap denial

President Chirac was embroiled in controversy after French television said he had sanctioned weapons sales to Bosnian Serbs to free two pilots.

Blunkett triumph

David Blunkett made a triumphant return to the annual conference of the National Union of Teachers.

Unabomber clue

A proverb's strange rendition provided the FBI with a clue that led them to believe Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, 53, is America's most wanted man.

Tower mystery

A 60-year-old mystery involving high treason and sexual obsession may be solved with the release of government papers about Norman Baillie-Stewart, the last Briton imprisoned in the Tower.

French protest

Doctors' surgeries in France will shut for a day in protest at the Prime Minister's plans to cut welfare spending.

RAF's new recruits are failing to shine

The RAF is in danger of becoming the riff-raff, officers fear. Young officers, once so socially adroit and dashing that they were known as the Brylcreem Boys, now speak in monosyllables and are more at home in the disco than the ballroom. Latest officer-training recruits are to be schooled in life's finer points — by order of the Air Chief Marshal.



Yeoman Warders taking part in the Tower of London's State Parade yesterday in which they escort the Governor to the chapel

BUSINESS

Special delivery: The Post Office has set its sights on becoming the biggest travel agent in Britain and plans to sell cut-price scheduled airline tickets in most of its 20,000 branches.

ARTS

Veteran rocker: As his Shepherd's Bush gig proved, Lou Reed may be 54 years old, but he has still got his finger on the rock'n'roll pulse.

FEATURES

Helping hand: As she approaches 90, Elizabeth Longford, who has 26 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, reflects on the pleasures of an extended family.

SPORT

Motor sport: Damon Hill led from the start to take the Argentine Grand Prix, his fourth Formula One win in succession. Jacques Villeneuve, his Williams teammate was runner-up.

Back home

Peter Robinson, ousted chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, has returned to his Kent home, where he promised to continue his defence against allegations of abuse of company facilities.

Musical comeback

Denny Laine, Paul McCartney's old partner, is attempting to reignite his career, which has been in limbo since he left Wings.

Magnificent beef

On a visit to the Tate, Giles Coren discovers connoisseurs do not share Hogarth's sense of humour.

Football: Manchester United

emerged sorrow but not shaken from a splendid encounter after beating their city rivals to confirm their position at the head of the FA Carling Premiership.

Wall Street worry

US financial markets are braced for significant initial losses as traders have the first chance to react to Friday's stronger-than-expected employment figures showing 140,000 jobs were created outside the farm sector last month.

Parling shots

Andy Lavender goes behind the scenes to watch the editing of Dennis Potter's final two television dramas — Karaoke and Cold Lazarus.

Mad as hell

First came the film, Plan 9 From Outer Space, voted the worst movie of all time. Now comes the stage musical, but will it make it to the West End?

Scottish Cup

Rangers qualified to meet Heart of Midlothian in the final of the cup by beating Celtic 2-1 at Hampden Park, so keeping alive their hopes of a cup and league double.

Rowing: Oxford rowing

may be facing a long-term crisis after the crew were beaten so decisively by a Cambridge squad.

Rugby union

Bath and Harlequins adopted the ambitious approach and fluid game they feel must become the norm if English rugby is to make an impact on Southern Hemisphere teams.

Equestrianism

William Fox-Pitt enhanced his chances of making the Great Britain team for the Olympic Games when he won his section of the Brigstock horse trials.

MIND AND MATTER

Fermat's Last Theorem: The solving of a famous conundrum will lead to new challenges, Marcus du Sautoy writes.

Gene race

Why is it when British scientists make a breakthrough in genetics, other countries made the most of the commercial prospects, asks Nigel Hawkes.

Lottery numbers

1, 4, 6, 14, 17, 38. Bonus: 9. Five ticket holders share the jackpot, each winning £4.2 million.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

EMPIRE ART

Images of Victorians in Africa: Thomas Baines and others in a new London show

LAW

Nuisance and noise: councils receive 300 complaints a day about loud neighbours

THE TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

FORECAST

General: most of England and Wales will be dry with warm sunshine by the afternoon. Westernmost parts of England and Wales will become more cloudy with mist, hill fog and patchy drizzle.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c = cloudy; d = drizzle; da = dust storm; d = dull; f = fog; g = gale; h = hail; r = rain; sh = shower; s = sleet; sn = snow; st = storm; t = thunder

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the appropriate code.

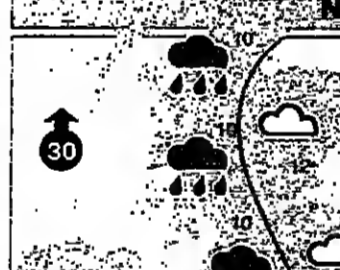
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6:20 am Sun sets: 7:46 pm Moon rises: 8:08 am Moon sets: 00:00

ABROAD

Algeria 18.99 C Athens 12.54 S Beijing 11.52 S Bonn 17.63 C Bucharest 18.64 S Cairo 18.64 S Frankfurt 16.81 S Geneva 15.59 S Hong Kong 23.73 C Istanbul 16.61 S Jerusalem 31.88 S London 18.64 S Madrid 16.61 S Moscow 10.50 S New York 11.52 S Paris 18.64 S Rome 16.61 S Seoul 11.52 S Singapore 11.52 S Sydney 26.82 C Taipei 22.72 S Toronto 11.52 S Tokyo 11.52 S Warsaw 16.61 S Wellington 26.77 S Zurich 16.61 S

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, and HT. Locations include London Bridge, Aberdeen, Liverpool, etc.

FINEST & LOWEST

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, and HT. Locations include London Bridge, Aberdeen, Liverpool, etc.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,136

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the starting squares. The grid is 15 squares wide and 15 squares high.

ACROSS

- 1 One of those who combine to produce food (6).
5 Meddler takes unknown substance on public transport (8).
9 Eminent Liberal scolded about young relative (10).
10 Start of battle leaves colonel drained of energy (4).
11 Hang around one with medal for aquatic sport (8).
12 Top-class series of operas given public exposure (6).
13 Shock can be most unpleasant part (4).
15 Reckoning ability shown by new university blue is beyond me (8).
18 Sacrifice of queen's partner by disorderly mob (8).
19 Stern new invasion in struggle (4).
21 Good man installed in new role as stable worker (6).

DOWN

- 2 Missle found in East End school? (5).
3 Obsession of one Scotsman to get king banished from republic (9).
4 Shrink back as engineers start to change lubricant (6).
5 Fund-raising event represented by a guild's banner (5-3-3-4).
6 Second thoughts about room provided for weapons (4-4).
7 Railway porter possibly carried agricultural machine (5).
8 Serve on small vessel belonging to republic (9).
14 One who prizes job as fund administrator? (9).
16 Loathsome as Tyler was! (9).
17 One of Snow's powerful passages (8).
20 Jump about in punt, say (6).
22 Part of island in the French West Indies? (5).
24 The spirit, out East, raised in the dark (5).

ABERLOUR The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,135 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

Times Two Crossword, page 36

FLIGHT SAVERS LONDON TO MILAN from £99 return. LONDON TO AMSTERDAM from £69 return. LONDON TO NEWCASTLE from £58 return.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'FREE CONCERT', 'Lef NU for', and 'Head tells'.